FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-098
Monday
24 May 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-098 CONTENTS *24 May 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Talks Between ASEAN, 'Dialogue Partners' Reported 1
  - Sides Discuss Cambodia, DPRK *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 21 May]* 1
  - ASEAN Urges UNSC Meeting on Cambodia *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 22 May]* 1
  - Sides Urge PRC Role in Security Talks *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 22 May]* 2

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

- Pacific Basin Economic Conference Opens in Seoul *[Seoul YONHAP]* 4
  - Malaysia's Mahathir Speaks *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 4

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Steelmakers Quit Talks With U.S. on Duties *[KYODO]* 5
- U.S. Official Rejects Rice Tariffs Compromise *[KYODO]* 5
- Talks With U.S. To Focus on Financial Services *[KYODO]* 5
- GM 'Negative' on Making Toyota Trucks in U.S. *[KYODO]* 6
- J.C. Penny Tie-Up Viewed as 'Threat' to Stores *[KYODO]* 6
- Kono Comments on U.S. Shooting Acquittal *[KYODO]* 6
- Reportage on Situation in Cambodia Continues 6
  - SDF To Transport Ballot Boxes *[KYODO]* 6
  - Miyazawa Expresses Satisfaction *[KYODO]* 7
  - Miyazawa: Duty Withdrawal Possible *[KYODO]* 7
  - New Guidelines Conflict With Law *[KYODO]* 7
- Miyazawa: UN Should Consult 'More Effectively' *[KYODO]* 8
- Tokyo Opposes Russia's Okhotsk Fishing Ban *[Tokyo TV]* 9
- LDP's Mitsuzuka Urges Apology From Yeltsin *[KYODO]* 9
- 'Authority' Criticizes G-7 Aid Plan for Russia *[KYODO]* 9
- Russians From Disputed Islands Arrive in Tokyo *[KYODO]* 10
- Tokyo, London Hold Antitrust Policy Meeting *[KYODO]* 10
- Taiwanese Colonial Rule Savings Return Deferred *[KYODO]* 10
- Osaka Officials, Romania's Negritoiu Meet *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 11
- Tokyo Declines Comment on East Timor Allegations *[KYODO]* 11

North Korea

- Commentary Criticizes U.S. Nuclear Director *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
- U.S. 'Aspiration' To Dominate Asia Denounced *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
- Daily Denounces U.S. Security Conference Plans *[KCNA]* 13
- Group Demands U.S. Apology for 'Criminal Acts' *[KCNA]* 14
- U.S. Conducts Air Exercises 19-21 May *[KCNA]* 14
- Daily Urges UN Not To Follow 'Superpower' Scheme *[KCNA]* 15
- SKNDF Issues Statement on ROK Nuclear Program *[KCNA]* 15
- Daily Urges 'Full Solution' to Kwangju Problem *[KCNA]* 16
- KCNA Reports Student Demonstrations in South 16
- Foreign Minister Meets Indonesian Vice President *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
  - Returns From Indonesia *[KCNA]* 17
- WPK, Other Delegations Depart for PRC 22 May *[KCNA]* 17
- Delegations Depart For, Arrive From PRC 24 May *[KCNA]* 17

Spokesman Criticizes Plutonium Sales to Japan *[KCNA]* 17
WPK, Ukrainian Socialist Party Issue Statement *[Pyongyang Radio]* 18
Daily Calls for Development of Socialism *[KCNA]* 19
Daily Stresses Importance of Self-Reliance *[KCNA]* 19
WPK Members Urged To Become Vanguard Fighters *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19
Daily: 10-Point Program Can Solve Problems *[KCNA]* 21
KCNA Reviews 24 May NODONG SINMUN 22
KCNA Reviews 22 May Pyongyang Press 23

South Korea

Reportage: President To Make New Military Appointments 23
    Spokesman Comments *[YONHAP]* 23
    Kim Makes Appointments 24 May *[YONHAP]* 24
    New Military Officials Profiled *[YONHAP]* 24
    'News Analysis' of Changes *[YONHAP]* 25
One Thousand Kwangju Students Stage Demonstration *[HANGYORE SINMUN 23 May]* 26
    Two Thousand Protest in Seoul *[CHUNGANG ILBO 23 May]* 26
Pak Chol-on Probed for Bribery, Protests Innocence *[THE KOREA TIMES 22 May]* 26
    Arrested by Police *[THE KOREA TIMES 23 May]* 27
Majority of Pollees Favor Continued Anticorruption Drive *[YONHAP]* 27
Four Hyundai Firms To Break Away From Main Group *[THE KOREA HERALD 23 May]* 27
DPRK Envoy: Date for U.S. Talks 'Will Be Known Soon' *[YONHAP]* 28
Reportage on Visit of Philippine President Ramos 28
    Arrives 21 May *[YONHAP]* 28
    Romulo Requests Economic Aid *[YONHAP]* 28
    Manila Buys 12 Navy Speedboats *[YONHAP]* 29
Ramos Meets With Mahathir on Sabah, Spratlys *[Quezon City TV]* 29
President Kim Meets With Malaysian Prime Minister *[YONHAP]* 29
GATT Director Urges Rice Market Opening *[YONHAP]* 29
Beef Talks With Australia, NZ End in 'Discord' *[YONHAP]* 29
Construction Bank of China To Open Seoul Office *[YONHAP]* 30
PRC Founds Research Center for Korean Affairs *[YONHAP]* 30
Seoul, Mexico Sign Agreement on Double Taxation *[YONHAP]* 30

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Confident of UN Peacekeepers' Safety *[BERNAMA]* 31
PRC Defense Minister Arrives 24 May *[BERNAMA]* 31
Deputy Premier Leaves for France, Scandinavia *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 31
Commentary Views Importance of Growth Triangles *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 31

Singapore

UK's Rifkind: Defense Arrangements 'Relevant' *[THE STRAITS TIMES 22 May]* 32

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Urges Round-the-Clock Ballot Box Watch *[AFP]* 32
Hun Sen 'Satisfied' With UN's Poll Protection *[AFP]* 33
Akashi Heads 20 May SNC Meeting *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 33
Khmer Rouge Spokesman Holds News Conference *[Bangkok TV]* 33
Khieu Samphan Vows To Oppose UNTAC Election *[Radio VGNUFC]* 33
Prince Sihanouk Arrives in Phnom Penh 22 May *[AFP]* 34
    Akashi Welcomes Sihanouk at Airport *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 34
Ranariddh: 'No Part' in New Government for KR *[AFP]* 35
KR Organize Anti-Election Demonstration 22 May *[AFP]* 35

- Khmer Rouge Suspected in Pre-Election Violence 35
  - 2 Chinese Peacekeepers Killed *[AFP]* 35
  - PDK Spokesman 'Rejects' Allegation *[Radio VGNUFC]* 36
  - SOC Sends Message to Families of Dead *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
  - Checkpoint Suffers 'Fierce Attack' 17 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
  - Towns Attacked in Kampot 19 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
  - Train Attacked in Kampot 22 May *[AFP]* 37
  - Kompong Cham Towns Attacked 22 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
  - UNTAC: 200 Murdered in Prepoll Violence *[AFP]* 38
- UNTAC Chief: Polls To Proceed Despite Attacks *[Tokyo KYODO]* 38
- Phnom Penh Officials Fined for Poll Violation *[AFP]* 39
- Polls Open for National Assembly Elections 23 May *[AFP]* 39
  - UNTAC: Voting 'Proceeding Calmly' *[AFP]* 39
  - KR, Government Forces Clash *[AFP]* 40
  - French Troops Fire on KR *[AFP]* 40
  - Khmer Rouge Shelling Injures Two *[AFP]* 41
  - Voting Ends; Few Incidents Reported *[AFP]* 41
  - KYODO Reports Election Activity 42
  - Khmer Rouge Attacks Detailed *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 43
  - UNTAC 'Cautiously Optimistic' *[Tokyo KYODO]* 43
- Sihanouk Calls on Khmer Rouge To Lay Down Arms *[AFP]* 44
- Kompong Cham Polls Temporarily Closed 24 May *[AFP]* 44
- Polling Proceeds Despite 'Scattered Incidents' *[AFP]* 45
- DK Spokesman: Cambodians Oppose UNTAC Polls *[Radio VGNUFC]* 46
  - UNTAC Accused of Collusion With SRV *[Radio VGNUFC]* 46
- SRV Troops, Weapons Said Brought to Kompong Som *[Radio VGUNFC]* 47
- 21 May Rally in Thmar Puok Reported *[Radio VGUNFC]* 47
- FUNCINPEC Dark Horse To Win Elections *[Bangkok THE NATION 23 May]* 48
- FRDP Head Interviewed on Diplomatic Policy *[KAOH SANTEPHEAP No. 2025]* 49
- Paper Analyzes UN's Postelection Options *[PHNOM PENH POST 21 May-3 Jun]* 49
- Minister Issues Statement on MOULINAKA *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 51

Indonesia

- Tunisian Foreign Minister Continues Visit 52
  - Urges Reactivation of Trade *[Jakarta Radio]* 52
  - Meets Officials, Signs Accord *[ANTARA]* 52
  - Agrees To Boost Trade Cooperation *[ANTARA]* 52

Laos

- Foreign Minister Meets Qian Qichen in Beijing *[Vientiane Radio]* 53
  - Returns Home 22 May *[Vientiane Radio]* 53
  - To Visit Thailand 30-31 May *[Vientiane Radio]* 54
- Joint Venture Signed With U.S. Firm *[Vientiane Radio]* 54
- Assembly Chairman Receives PRC Friendship Group *[Vientiane Radio]* 54

Philippines

- President Views Upcoming Trip to ROK *[Seoul THE KOREA HERALD 23 May]* 55
  - Departs for Seoul 23 May *[AFP]* 56
- Ople Heads Manila-U.S. Relations Review Panel *[MALAYA 23 May]* 56
- Five Hundred Politicians Join Ramos' Lakas-NUCD Party *[Manila Radio]* 57

Thailand

- Prasong Responds to Clinton's Remarks on Burma *[BANGKOK POST 22 May]* 57
- Army Commander Inspects Cobra Gold Exercise *[Bangkok TV]* 57
- Marshal Denies U.S. Supplying Cambodia Factions *[Bangkok TV]* 58
- Prasong, Army Commander on Cambodian Situation *[Bangkok TV]* 58
- Military To Provide 'Cooperation' With UNTAC *[Radio VOFA]* 58

Ministry Issues Statement on Cambodian Stand *[Radio VOFA]* 59
    Paper To Provide 'Understanding' *[THE NATION 23 May]* 60
    Ministry Assailed Over KR Issue *[SIAM RAT 22 May]* 61
    Document on Cambodia Questioned *[THE NATION 24 May]* 61
Editorial Views Election Situation in Cambodia *[THE NATION 23 May]* 62
Opposition Efforts To Topple Government Alleged *[Bangkok Radio]* 63
Opposition Split on Censure Motion Viewed *[THE NATION 22 May]* 64
Economist: Chuan Policies May Ruin Stability *[THE NATION 24 May]* 65

Vietnam

Joint U.S. Search for MIA's Conducted 22-24 May *[VNA]* 66
Results of Businessmen's Trip to U.S. Announced *[Hanoi Radio]* 66
    Trip to U.S. Detailed *[Hanoi Radio]* 66
Commentary Views Elections in Cambodia *[Hanoi Radio]* 66
Vo Van Kiet Leaves for Visit to New Zealand *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
    Editorial Previews Visit *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
PRC Defense Minister Chi Haotian Ends Visit *[Hanoi International]* 67
Prime Minister To Visit France 'End of June' *[AFP]* 68
Vo Van Kiet Receives New French Ambassador *[Hanoi Radio]* 68
Australian Company Obtains Steel Production License *[VNA]* 68
Assembly Standing Committee Issues Communique *[Hanoi Radio]* 68
Regular Cabinet Meeting Held 20-21 May *[Hanoi Radio]* 69
Vu Oanh Addresses Commerce, Tourist Congress *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Ho Chi Minh City Trade Union Holds Congress *[Hanoi TV]* 70

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Canberra, Wellington To 'Push' Asia-Pacific Trade *[Melbourne International]* 71

New Zealand

Australian Prime Minister Winds Up Visit 23 May 71
    Discusses 'Intertwined' Relations *[Melbourne International]* 71
    Bolger Opposes Annexation *[AFP]* 71
    Defense Only 'Major' Difference *[Wellington International]* 71

Talks Between ASEAN, 'Dialogue Partners' Reported

Sides Discuss Cambodia, DPRK

BK2105113693 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 May 93 p 2

[By Chai Kim Wah and Derwin Pereira of the foreign desk]

[Text] Senior officials from ASEAN and its dialogue partners yesterday weighed the options for a post-election Cambodia, including maintaining a United Nations (UN) presence in the country after the polls in order to keep the peace.

The Cambodian conflict was "the most urgent" issue discussed on the first day of closed-door talks on regional security between senior officials of ASEAN and its seven dialogue partners—the U.S., Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the European Community (EC).

"The meeting expressed its resolve to uphold the result of the Cambodian election after it's certified free and fair by the United Nations," Philippine Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Rodolfo Severino told reporters after the talks.

Asked if the delegates discussed extending the stay of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), he said: "It may or may not be necessary... But certainly, the various possibilities were discussed today."

Among the options, he said was the possibility of holding "some kind of international conference" on post-election Cambodia under the UN.

The secretary general of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, Tan Sri Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, said the possibility of maintaining UN troops would be studied after the UN-sponsored elections on May 23-28.

An ASEAN official added: "The status quo is that UNTAC should remain till Aug 28 and then the future situation will be looked at."

But if the UN had to extend its stay in Cambodia, this would dash hopes that it can leave the country within three months after the polls as envisaged in the Paris peace accords signed in 1991, an EC diplomat noted.

An ASEAN official said Cambodia took up about an hour of the meeting yesterday. Several other issues were also raised.

The meeting agreed that China and Russia as major players in the region had to be brought into future dialogues. But what form their participation would take, at what level, and when this would happen had yet to be discussed, said Mr. Severino.

China and Russia had been invited as guests at the last two ASEAN post-ministerial conferences.

The disputed Spratly islands were also discussed "extensively," said Mr. Severino.

"There was a general feeling that no party should do anything to destabilise the situation. No significant changes in the military equation there," he added.

The officials agreed that joint development of the Spratlys had to be treated with great care, he said.

Several delegations yesterday tabled "confidence-building measures" which would be discussed in greater detail today, said the ASEAN official.

On North Korea, Mr. Severino said the meeting regarded Pyongyang's nuclear programme as a "cause for grave concern."

He said several delegations outlined the measures that they were taking to persuade the North Koreans to adhere to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Other issues raised were the military regime in Myanmar [Burma] and safety in the busy Straits of Malacca, the scene of many recent shipping mishaps and pirate attacks.

The increasing congestion and pollution in the straits had to be discussed at the international level, perhaps within the framework of the International Maritime Organisation, said Tan Sri Datuk Ahmad.

Yesterday's talks, the first official forum for ASEAN and its dialogue partners to discuss security issues in the Asia-Pacific region, were "positive and constructive," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord.

The officials said many ideas were proposed, but they did not expect concrete measures to be taken just yet.

"It's enough that we have sat down and gotten a better understanding of one another's positions and some common understandings on certain issues," said Mr. Severino.

ASEAN Urges UNSC Meeting on Cambodia

BK2205101693 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 93 p 3

[Text] ASEAN wants more countries to be involved in a UN Security Council [USNC] meeting to assess the outcome of next week's general election in Cambodia.

"The idea is that immediately after the elections, there should be a possibility of calling an expanded Perm [Permanent]-Five to have a meeting to see how we can help," Datuk Paduka Lim Jock Seng, permanent secretary in Brunei's Foreign Ministry, told reporters yesterday.

The "expanded Perm-Five" is a 10-country UN group working to end more than a decade of warfare in Cambodia.

It consists of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China—plus Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, Japan and Germany.

Tan Sri Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary general of Malaysia's Foreign Ministry, said there was general agreement among ASEAN countries that the "expanded Perm-Five" should meet soon after the May 23-28 polls.

Speaking to reporters yesterday at the meeting of ASEAN senior officials and their dialogue partners, he said: "We are thinking of an expanded Perm Five"... Some Asean countries are quite interested in participating in that kind of discussion in order to ensure that whatever we have achieved after the elections will not be lost."

ASEAN countries have sent military personnel and equipment to Cambodia to reinforce the peacekeeping efforts of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

Other officials at the two-day talks on regional security, which ended yesterday, said an expanded group for any new meeting on post-election Cambodia might include Vietnam.

"Vietnam has a role to play," said Indonesian Director General for Political Affairs Wiryono Sastrohandoyo.

When asked whether ASEAN would ask the UN to convene the meeting, Tan Sri Datuk Ahmad said: "I'll leave that to the Security Council."

A senior Canadian official said that if convened, the meeting would take stock of the Cambodian factions' reactions to the result of the elections and how to manage it.

UN peacekeepers are scheduled to leave by Aug. 28 if the election results are certified by the UN to be free and fair.

Sides Urge PRC Role in Security Talks

BK2205094893 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 93 p 1

[By Chai Kim Wah]

[Text] Senior officials from ASEAN and its dialogue partners agreed that China had to be included in future discussions on regional security when they ended their first meeting on security issues yesterday.

The rapid growth of China's economic and military power dominated the discussions and there was unanimous agreement that China must be brought into an expanded Asia-Pacific dialogue on security matters, officials said.

"There is a consensus on the need to engage China. We are eager to have the Chinese, but we do not yet have the agreement on how to do it," Indonesian Director General for Political Affairs Wiryono Sastrohandoyo said after the closed-door talks.

Said a senior ASEAN official: "A lot of issues require the involvement of China. In the short-term, China is preoccupied with economic development rather than the projection of military power. But in the long-term, some countries see China as a threat."

Apart from China, the other key players in the region should also join the dialogue on security, the officials said.

"If we are going to talk about political and security issues, it does not make sense if China and Russia and Vietnam and Laos are not included," said Tan Sri Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary general of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord said: "We think it's important to find ways to engage other key players in the region and we will work with all the countries represented here on exactly how we do that."

Diplomats said one suggestion was to invite the Chinese and Russian foreign ministers to an informal meeting before the post-ministerial conference (PMC) in July when ASEAN foreign ministers hold talks with their dialogue partners.

The partners are the U.S., Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Community.

The Chinese and Russian ministers, who attended the last two ASEAN foreign ministers meetings as guests, have not taken part in the PMC because neither are dialogue partners.

The senior officials' meeting lays the groundwork for the PMC whose largely economic agenda has been expanded to include regional security.

The two-day meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Peter Chan, permanent secretary in Singapore's Foreign Ministry, was the first time that the senior officials focussed entirely on security issues.

The officials said in a statement that there was an opportunity for the region "to strengthen political and security conditions for economic growth and development."

ASEAN and its dialogue partners would work with other countries in the region "to evolve a predictable and constructive pattern of relationships in the Asia-Pacific," the statement said.

ASEAN's efforts to widen the ambit of the security dialogue to include China, Russia, Vietnam, and Laos was welcomed.

The statement noted that the continued presence of the U.S. and stable relationships among the U.S., China, and Japan remained crucial for regional stability.

The participants agreed on the need to find ways to consult each other on political and security issues.

"This would foster the habit of open dialogue even where there are different ways of looking at some issues. It could encourage patterns of behaviour that reduce the risks to security," the statement said.

The officials also discussed confidence-building measures and ways to contain the spread of nuclear and conventional weapons.

They expressed serious concern over North Korea's decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on June 12.

Views were exchanged on the dispute over the Spratly islands and the military regime in Myanmar [Burma].

"There was wide consensus on many issues; on those issues where there were different perspectives people spoke in a constructive and friendly fashion and tried to point out their different approaches," said Mr. Lord.

Mr. Chan said the senior officials meeting on regional security would be held again in Bangkok next year. The ASEAN PMC will be held on July 26-28 after the annual ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting on July 23-24. Singapore as chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee will host both meetings.

Pacific Basin Economic Conference Opens in Seoul

SK2405051293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—The 26th annual plenary session of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) opened in Seoul for a three-day run Monday [24 May] with over 700 people from more than 20 nations taking part.

PBEC, the largest private economic organization in the Pacific Basin, has drawn such eminent figures as South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, Philippine President Fidel Ramos and Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad, who are expected to hold talks on "Open Regionalism: A New Basis for Globalism?," a PBEC spokesman said.

The trade ministers of six countries, including Korean Trade, Industry and Resources Minister Kim Chol-su, will Tuesday discuss a variety of issues while relevant subcommittees are meeting.

The Korean president, in an address to the opening session, explained his foreign policy and views on economic regionalism and globalism. His Philippine and Malaysian counterparts were scheduled to deliver speeches.

In particular, the six trade ministers are expected to focus on seeking ways to help overcome narrow-mindedness of regionalism and economic cooperation among Pacific Basin countries.

The subcommittees will concentrate on explanations of investment conditions by region, the spokesman said, adding that a colorful variety of briefing sessions on checking prospects for strategic industries will also be featured.

Taiwan has shown its concern for the resumption of economic cooperation with Korea by sending a 64-member delegation to the session.

PBEC, established in 1967, has 14 member countries.

Ku Pyong-hoe, chairman of the Lucky-Goldstar group, is PBEC president and Cho Sok-nae, chairman of the Hyosung group, is chairman of the organizing committee of the Seoul conference.

Malaysia's Mahathir Speaks

BK2405080593 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0708 GMT 24 May 93

[By Azman Ujang]

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The entire world should be a single marketplace and trading bloc with as few obstacles and distortions as possible for free trade, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said here Monday [24 May].

Although free trade was full of imperfections, it was the best model in ensuring the greatest economic good for the greatest number of people, he told more than 700 top executives of corporations and government officials attending the 26th international general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) at the Korea Arts Centre.

In the context of trade, open globalism must be the first and the best choice, said Dr Mahathir who argued strongly for open regionalism not only in this part of the world but worldwide.

But, he said, in the post-war period, more than 55 regional markets, trade arrangements or blocs had been put in place around the world.

Northeast Asia remained the only major area in the entire world where such a bloc had never been seriously tried, he added.

The prime minister said the world now needed new champions and makers of the multilateral, open global trading system because the old champions were no longer there.

It was for this central reason that Malaysia advocated the formation of an East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) as a coalition for the region to build the necessary regional organ for an open global trading system, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the EAEC was propelled by the desire to ensure that East Asian regionalism developed in the most productive way possible for all the economies of the region, but, without forgetting countries geographically located outside East Asia.

Whether we like it or not, whether we want it or not, East Asian economic interdependence and integration is taking place at a ferocious pace now and is going to continue at the same pace, said Dr Mahathir who gave an East Asian perspective on the theme of the conference open regionalism - a new basis for globalism.

He gave the assurance that unlike the economic integration in Europe and elsewhere, East Asian integration was completely market and business driven and should remain to be so for the future.

Japan

Steelmakers Quit Talks With U.S. on Duties

OW2205042893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 21 KYODO—Japanese steelmakers have given up talks with the U.S. Commerce Department to seek a compromise before a final decision on a preliminary U.S. ruling to slap on antidumping duties, industry sources here said Friday. Nippon Steel Corp. and other Japanese firms have decided to wait for the department's final decision on June 21, rather than continue negotiations with the department on a dumping suit filed by the U.S. steel industry against imports from Japan and 18 other countries, the sources said.

Since early this month, Japanese steelmakers and the Commerce Department have been negotiating on a compromise plan to reserve a final decision in exchange for setting up minimum prices for steel sheets and plates sold in the U.S. The department has proposed raising the minimum price on the basis of adding an 8 percent profit and 10 percent sales expense on primary costs. This would be on the condition that the companies admit to dumping practices.

The talks failed, however, to reach an agreement by the Friday deadline, the sources said.

Meanwhile, steelmakers from South Korea and several other countries are continuing negotiations, the sources said.

The sources said chances are high that Japanese steel products will be determined to have been dumped in the U.S. in next month's final decision. If so, antidumping duties will be imposed after the international trade commission investigates in late July the degree of damage incurred by the U.S. firms from the dumping.

Earlier in Tokyo, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry told reporters that the ministry will call on the U.S. to hold talks with Japan as early as June on a preliminary U.S. decision. The call is in line with antidumping rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and if the bilateral talks end in failure, the ministry will seek informal arbitration from GATT, the officials said. If the GATT go-between fails to produce any satisfactory agreement, the ministry will file an official complaint with a GATT dispute settlement panel, they said.

U.S. Official Rejects Rice Tariffs Compromise

OW2205090093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan must abandon thoughts that it can be treated differently in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, a senior U.S. official said in Tokyo on Saturday.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the United States would reject any compromise offers, such as free imports of dairy products and starch, in return for excluding rice from tariffs. If a major nation like Japan sought exceptional treatment on rice, other countries would make similar demands, the official told Kyodo News Service.

His comments poured cold water on Tokyo's hopes of having rice excluded from among agricultural products.

In mid-April, Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said, "I don't know whether we have to defend only rice or ask for all (products). But, we can if it's only rice."

The U.S. official said the government should limit its intervention to maintain healthy progress of "minimum access" with low tariffs. The process of allocating import quotas must be open to consumers, and government control blocks this "minimum access," he said.

Talks With U.S. To Focus on Financial Services

OW2205084793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0723 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Market access into Japan's financial services arena, particularly pension management, insurance business and corporate bond underwriting will be the focus of talks between Japan and the United States, financial sources say.

In June, the Japanese Ministry of Finance will hold talks with its U.S. counterpart—the first such talks since President Bill Clinton came into office—aimed at reaching an agreement on market access before the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations in July.

The employee pension fund market is one of the most attractive areas for U.S. firms, with total assets reaching 28.8 trillion yen as of March 1992, the sources noted. The U.S. side is seeking eased regulations by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and corporate pension funds.

Currently, foreign institutions are allowed to manage only "new money," which is made after signing management contracts, while existing "old money" is limited to Japanese trust banks and life insurance firms.

The Japanese Finance Ministry insists it has already given preferential treatment to foreign concerns by allowing them to establish fund management companies more easily.

As for the insurance market, the U.S. wants Japan to adopt a system similar to its own in which brokers sell products of several different insurance firms. The U.S. is also seeking simplified procedures for approving new products.

In Japan, casualty insurance policies are sold through agents, while life insurance policies are directly marketed through sales representatives.

For the nonlife insurance market, the U.S. side may call for free cross-border operations to allow foreign concerns without a Japanese license to directly offer their products in Japan, the sources said.

The ministry is now considering reforms in line with a report submitted last year by its advisory insurance council. Its plan so far includes sharp amendment of the insurance business law in fiscal 1995 to promote deregulation in line with U.S. demands.

Foreign brokerage houses are already allowed to underwrite corporate bonds under the same conditions as their Japanese counterparts. But disappointed with poor records on obtaining contracts, the foreign firms are calling for an early go-ahead on issuance of floating-rate corporate bonds, which are common in the U.S.

The ministry will tell its U.S. counterpart that its ban will be lifted in two years under recently implemented financial reforms, the sources said.

GM 'Negative' on Making Toyota Trucks in U.S.

OW2405130693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. President Tatsuro Toyoda said Monday it is too early to begin U.S. production of pickup trucks in collaberation with General Motors Corp. But Toyoda noted at a news conference that he would consider producing pickup trucks in the United States if sales volume were high enough to bring a profit.

Toyota and GM have been discussing a plan to make Toyota's T100 pickup truck at an idle GM plant in the United States, but GM Chief Executive Officer and President John F. Smith recently expressed negative views about the project.

J.C. Penny Tie-Up Viewed as 'Threat' to Stores

OW2205090293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Osaka, May 22 KYODO—Aoyama Trading Co. has agreed with J.C. Penny Co. of the United States to import casual wear products for sale in the Japanese market, informed sources said Saturday. "The accord will be announced fairly soon," the sources said.

Under the agreement, Aoyama Trading, based in Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, will directly import products from J.C. Penny, the largest U.S. retailer, to exclusively market them in Japan, the sources said. This will enable Aoyama to improve the ratio of its gross profit to sales in such clothing, they said.

The major suburban-type chain store operator specializing in apparel aims to boost its number of sales outlets to 800 by the year 2002 by opening around 100 stores every year, the sources said. The company is also considering developing new products with the cooperation of J.C. Penny.

Industry analysts believe Aoyama's tie-up with J.C. Penny will pose a threat to major Japanese department stores and supermarkets because it will be able to introduce extremely low-priced casual wear.

Aoyama has posted strong sales of low-priced men's suits since it opened stores in Tokyo's Ginza district and other locations last October, with its share of such suits in Japan reaching 16 percent as of the end of last March.

J.C. Penny, based in Dallas, Texas, owns more than 2,000 stores across the U.S. Its overall sales for the year ended last January 31 reached 18 billion dollars.

Kono Comments on U.S. Shooting Acquittal

OW2405040693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Government Spokesman Yohei Kono said Monday the acquittal of a Louisiana man who shot dead a 16-year-old Japanese exchange student demonstrates the different attitude toward possession of guns in the two countries. Kono, the chief cabinet secretary, added, however, that he does not believe the case will trigger an emotional reaction in Japan.

Rodney Peairs, 31, was found not guilty Sunday of the manslaughter of Yoshihiro Hattori, who knocked on the door of Peairs' home in Baton Rouge looking for a halloween party on the night of last October 17. Peairs' defense argued that he shot the youth in self-defense.

"Attitudes toward possession of guns are based on the different histories of various countries. The verdict was based on these differences," Kono told a news conference.

Ownership of handguns is virtually banned in Japan.

Kono expressed grief over the death of Yoshihiro and said he hopes the tragedy will never be repeated. He said it is not appropriate for the Japanese Government to comment on the outcome of a trial in a foreign country.

Reportage on Situation in Cambodia Continues

SDF To Transport Ballot Boxes

OW2205102893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Engineering troops from Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) taking part in UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia will transport ballot boxes from polling stations to vote counting centers immediately after the voting in general elections, government sources said Saturday. Voting begins on Sunday and will continue until May 28.

The SDF's action is in line with a request by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to help a transportation task which is mainly assigned to French troops. [sentence as received] The UNTAC has asked the SDF to transport ballot boxes from some polling stations which are difficult for French troops to get to because of poor roads, they said.

Late last year, Japan sent to Cambodia a 600-member engineering team from the SDF to the southern Cambodian province of Takeo to help rebuild roads and bridges devastated by the nearly 13-year-old civil war.

Miyazawa Expresses Satisfaction

OW2405034993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed pleasure Monday at the favorable beginning Sunday of Cambodia's general election. "It is great that such a number of people have turned out. Sure enough, it was right to hold the election," Miyazawa said.

Between 1.5 million and two million people, or at least one-third of Cambodia's eligible voters, went to the polls Sunday on the first day of the six-day election despite attempts by the Khmer Rouge to disrupt it, a United Nations spokesman said.

Miyazawa declined to comment about prospects for the outcome of the election, saying, "I do not know the results."

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, one of the four Cambodian parties that signed the Paris peace accord under which the election is being held, is boycotting the poll and has vowed to disrupt it. Three minor incidents Sunday were all attributed to the group.

Commenting on the incidents, Miyazawa said he hopes "such things will not happen."

Miyazawa later told the House of Representatives budget committee that he is closely watching the progress of the Cambodian election with the thought of being prepared to deal with the situation "in case of an emergency."

In a related development, Japan's Foreign Ministry announced Monday a 1.1 million dollar voluntary contribution to facilitate measures to ensure the safety of personnel of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Officials said the Japanese contribution will be used partly to fund UNTAC helicopter and other air operations and for the cost of fielding armored transport vehicles capable of withstanding mines. Miyazawa pledged in a May 20 press conference that Japan would offer around 1 million dollars to strengthen safety measures, following an ambush earlier this month on a UNTAC convoy, in which a Japanese policeman was killed.

Miyazawa: Duty Withdrawal Possible

OW2405120493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday [24 May] Tokyo could suspend its participation in a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia should more personnel be killed there.

"In the event that duties cannot be accomplished any further, we may have to decide on a suspension of the duties," he told the House of Representatives Budget Committee, replying to a query from Yoshinosuke Meguro of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan]. Miyazawa also said he bears responsibility for Japan's participation in the U.N. mission in Cambodia as head of the international peace cooperation headquarters of the prime minister's office.

He was evasive, however, about whether he will take political responsibility for any one who might be killed in the war-torn country, where a six-day general election is under way. Voting began Sunday and is scheduled to end Friday.

Responding to a question from Kansei Nakano of the Democratic Socialist Party, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said he took a dim view of an earlier-than-planned review of Japan's peacekeeping law. Although Nakano sought a revision of the law to allow Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia to join U.N. peacekeeping forces, the top government spokesman said in the Diet, "We want to carefully consider it for a little more while."

The peacekeeping law was enacted in June 1992 to allow Japan's Self-Defense Forces personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping activities abroad for the first time since the end of World War II. The law is to be reviewed three years after the enactment, and separate legislation is required to enable Japanese personnel to take part in combat duties. [passage omitted]

New Guidelines Conflict With Law

OW2405131293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—The guidelines of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia authorize peacekeepers to open fire to defend other countries' peacekeepers if they are in mortal danger, informed sources said Monday.

According to the sources, the U.N. document on standard operating procedures (SOP) for peacekeepers says the personnel of the U.N. Transitional Authority in

Cambodia (UNTAC) are authorized to use armed force against armed persons when any of eight conditions exist.

The eight terms are:

"(1) In self-defense. (2) Against attempts to disarm UNTAC personnel. (3) When other U.N. personnel are in mortal danger. (4) In defense of UNTAC posts, positions or vehicles under armed attack. (5) When attempts are made to compel UNTAC personnel by force to withdraw from a position they were ordered to occupy by their commanders. (6) When attempts are made with the use of armed force to penetrate a U.N. post or cut off a U.N. force. (7) When attempts by force are made to prevent UNTAC personnel from carrying out their missions assigned by their commander. (8) When attempts are made to abduct or arrest U.N. civilians or military personnel using force."

Some of these conditions appear to contradict the terms set forth in a Japanese law providing for the scope of actions which Japanese peacekeepers would be allowed to take in emergency situations, the sources said.

The International Peace Cooperation Law authorizes Japanese peacekeepers to use small firearms to defend only themselves or other Japanese peacekeepers deployed "in the same place" where the defending peacekeepers are assigned. The sources said the gap between the U.N. guidelines and the Japanese law may come under hot debate in parliamentary sessions that will start on Tuesday at the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

The SOP says, "Circumstances could arise where the use of forceful measures by UNTAC personnel could be justified.... In general terms, the use of force is authorized either in self-defense or in resisting attempts by forceful means to prevent UNTAC from accomplishing its mission."

The document defines SOP as "the rules governing the use of force by units assigned, attached or under the operational control of UNTAC." It urged UNTAC commanders to prepare directives governing the use of force based on these SOP rules and to make sure that all personnel under their command are fully briefed and understand these directives.

The rules define the scope of weapons which UNTAC commanders are authorized to order peacekeepers to use in accordance with their ranks in the U.N. peacekeeping force, from highest-ranking force commanders to sector commanders to company commanders. Under the SOP, force commanders are authorized to order the use of mortars, heavy machine guns and other hand-carried heavy weapons.

The SOP obligates all commanders to order peacekeepers to give a warning before firing their weapons and also instructs peacekeepers to fire warning shots before resorting to aimed fire, except that in the case of an immediate threat to life or if casualties have already been sustained. Even when aimed fire is authorized under a prescribed term, the SOP orders peacekeepers to aim low, at the legs of the attackers, according to the rules.

Miyazawa: UN Should Consult 'More Effectively'

OW2405055093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday the United Nations should consult more effectively and persuasively to disarm warring factions in war-torn countries as part of future UN peacekeeping operations. Miyazawa, speaking at the House of Representatives Budget Committee, alluded to the Khmer Rouge's refusal to give up its arms in Cambodia and said the UN should regard the Cambodian problems as a valuable experience.

Foreign Minister Kabun Muto told the same session the government needs to spend time to win understanding from the Japanese people on participation in the military aspects of UN peacekeeping operations.

Japan's Peacekeeeping Cooperation Law, which came into effect last year, restricts the participation of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in UN peacekeeping operations to noncombat roles. Separate legislation is required to enable the SDF to send its troops abroad to join UN peacekeeping forces.

Miyazawa also talked about political reform, which he has repeatedly vowed to realize during the current session of the Diet. He said Diet members should continue deliberations at the lower house's special committee on political reform.

But he showed caution to opposition calls to display leadership for an early compromise between the ruling and opposition parties on political reform.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has presented a package of four political reform bills, including a proposal to introduce single-seat constituencies for House of Representatives elections.

The country's two biggest opposition parties—the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) and Komeito—have tabled a proposal to combine single-seat constituencies and proportional representation.

A private council, comprising reprsentatives from industry, labor and media, has proposed a middle-of-the-road plan in a bid to help break the deadlock between the ruling and opposition parties. The plan cuts the number of lower house seats from 512 to 500, with 300 legislators elected from single-seat constituencies and the remaining 200 through proportional representation.

The ruling and opposition parties are still at odds over whether to hold over the political reform bills to the next

Diet session or extend the current ordinary Diet session beyond its scheduled finish on June 20 to discuss the bills.

Tokyo Opposes Russia's Okhotsk Fishing Ban

OW2305024593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0305 GMT 22 May 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Russia has announced a ban on fishing in the Sea of Okhotsk's international waters. Reacting strongly against this announcement, the Japanese Government decided to call on Moscow to review the ban.

The international waters in the Sea of Okhotsk, which are north of Sakhalin, is a very important fishing area for Japan, South Korea, and China. Japan catches about 5,000 tons of flatfish per year in the waters, and China and South Korea catch walleye pollack there; however, the Supreme Soviet suddenly adopted a resolution last month banning fishing in the waters beginning 15 June on the grounds that such marine resources as walleye pollack have become scarce. It then unilaterally informed concerned nations, including Japan, that it would hold an international meeting to discuss the matter in Moscow as early as the end of this month.

Worried that if Russia's unilateral ban were accepted it would spur moves to restrict fishing in the high seas in the Sea of Okhotsk, as well as fishing of such marine resources as tuna in other international waters, Japan decided to strongly demand that Russia review the ban.

LDP's Mitsuzuka Urges Apology From Yeltsin

OW2405095093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—The top policy maker of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) called Monday for an apology from Russian President Boris Yeltsin for twice canceling a visit to Japan, LDP officials said.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka told Russia's former acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar that Yeltsin would improve bilateral relations by an early visit to Japan and a "straightforward apology to the Japanese people." The chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council told Gaydar that such an action by Yeltsin would help "restore relations of trust" between Japan and Russia.

Gaydar, who arrived in Japan on Saturday for an eight-day visit at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry and the LDP, visited Mitsuzuka at LDP headquarters in Tokyo.

Yeltsin postponed visits to Japan last September and again this month. Gaydar told Mitsuzuka that he hopes Japan appreciates that Russia is now experiencing "a difficult period of transition," according to LDP officials.

They said that Gaydar told the senior LDP politician that Russia's economic revolution is trying to achieve a smooth transition toward a market economy and the privatization of state-run enterprises, similar to the transformation of Japan's national railways into private companies.

Mitsuzuka told Gaydar that Japan would be happy to accept a fact-finding mission from Russia to study the privatization of the former Japanese National Railways (JNR).

Gaydar was Russia's acting premier from June to December 1992, and now serves as president of a private corporate association.

'Authority' Criticizes G-7 Aid Plan for Russia

OW2405083793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—A Japanese authority on the Russian economy said Monday that a large part of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations' aid to Russia will be embezzled and squandered by the Russian military, mafia and government.

"The G-7 nations would be forced to reschedule their huge official credits to Russia when the repayment deadlines mature," said Tadao Morimoto, a senior adviser to the Toray Corporate Business Research Inc., a private think tank. Morimoto made his remarks in an address to a lecture meeting organized by Kyodo News Service.

The G-7 nations crafted an aid package of 43.4 billion dollars during a ministerial meeting in April in Tokyo. Including the private sector's credits to Russia, the total of Russian aid pledges stand at 55 billion dollars.

Morimoto linked Russia's bad credit to what he defined as six categories of Russia's economic malaises. He said the six include a plunge in annual Russian oil output and the lack of responsible government agencies capable of blocking Russian officials from embezzling and selling aid supplies to the mafia and other black marketers.

He warned that the G-7's 6 billion dollar ruble stabilization fund would not be able to put a brake on a sharp depreciation of the ruble chiefly due to Russian industrialists and firms taking their assets out of the country. He said the Russian Government has lost control over this "capital flight" phenomenon, under which Russia's huge monopolistic companies and industrialists have stashed proceeds from their sales of Russian gold and diamonds in the West, chiefly in Swiss and Hong Kong banks.

"The scale of the capital flight has already exceeded 40 billion dollars," he said. He said the actions have gutted Russia's reserve of currencies necessary to block a further plunge of the ruble.

Morimoto said that former Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar issued a government order in February 1992 that foreign-stored assets must be recorded and returned to the country under threats to sequester it unless the order was followed by March 15 of that year. So far, not a single dollar has returned to Russia, Morimoto said. He said the Russian mentality of trying to circumvent laws has made it impossible for the government to halt the capital flight.

He also criticized as inefficient the G-7's plan to hand over money to finance the dismantling of Russia's nuclear missiles.

"Should you give money to the Russian military, it would only end up in the military's pockets," he said. "Unless the G-7 imposed a monitoring system under which American experts on nuclear arms-dismantling techniques would visit Russia, teach dismantling technologies and set up dismantling factories, such money would not do any good," he said.

"Unless the (G-7) imposed a thorough on-the-spot supervising system, the money would be swallowed into a black hole," he said. He quoted Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy as disclosing that 60 percent of the West's [words indistinct] of humanitarian aid in 1992, such as food and medicines, have been embezzled and sold to the Russian mafia and other black marketers. "When I visited Moscow last year, I also saw Western aid supplies being marketed at exorbitant prices at kiosk-style shops set up at a Moscow park," he said.

Russians From Disputed Islands Arrive in Tokyo

OW2405125293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—A group of 64 Russians arrived in Tokyo Monday on a visa-free visit from four islands whose ownership is in dispute by Japan and Russia. It is the first time for a Russian group, under the mutual visa-free visit program between Hokkaido and the Russian-held islands, to visit other parts of Japan besides Hokkaido, officials of the government-affiliated Northern Territory Association said.

The 64-member group, the seventh Russian group to visit Japan since the program started last year, arrived in Tokyo via the port of Hanasaki in Nemuro, Hokkaido. They will stay in Tokyo until Thursday to inspect local hospitals, automobile factories, and metropolitan government offices, and return to the islands via Nemuro on Friday ending their five-day trip.

Last year about 270 Japanese—including many former residents of what Japan calls the northern territories—visited the disputed islands. A similar number of Russian islanders visited Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido last year under the program.

About 840 Japanese and Russian islanders are expected to participate in the program this year, they said. The Soviet Red Army took control of the four islands that were under Japanese rule in the closing days of World War II.

Tokyo, London Hold Antitrust Policy Meeting

OW2405040793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Antitrust law enforcement officials of Japan and Britain met in Tokyo Monday to discuss recent competition policies in both nations.

Attending the one-day meeting were Masami Kogayu, chairman of Japan's Fair Trade Commission (FTC), his British counterpart Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, and other officials.

Taiwanese Colonial Rule Savings Return Deferred

OW2305120893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—The Japanese Government has deferred on the pay-out of all kinds of savings Taiwanese made under Japanese colonial rule despite a 1982 Supreme Court ruling that ordered their return, a group of Taiwanese said Sunday. In a written response to a petition by some 300 claimants, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry has reiterated that "the pay-out will be put off as the problem concerning property of Chinese from Taiwan has not been resolved yet."

The initiator of the group, Lin Fu-ye, 62, of Taipei, demands a refund of the money his grandfather invested in treasury bonds, at a face value then of 190 yen. But the demand has been refused up to now.

In January, he decided to bolster his claims by joining forces with others. An appeal placed in a Taiwan newspaper brought more than 300 people together who had been claiming their colonial rule savings with interest added for more than 30 years, Lin said.

Japan occupied the island from 1885 to 1945. Before and during World War II, Japan fattened its war chest by strongly encouraging the purchase of government bonds not only in Japan but also in the colonies Korea and Taiwan.

Taiwanese also paid into military postal savings accounts, postal life insurances, stocks, bank deposits and military currency.

Private insurance companies have so far refused any pay-out, pointing to uncompleted paperwork and the government's wait-and-see policy.

The group now demands the savings they or their ancestors made be paid back indexed to the cost of living, said Lin, who plans to come to Japan for direct negotiations with officials of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry and insurance companies in June.

"After it has taken such a long time, it doesn't make sense to refund only principal and interest. It's Japan's responsibility that the nominal value (of our savings) today is not even worth a bottle of beer, we have been demanding them long enough," he said.

This new approach is not shared by the ministry. "We probably have to bear a certain responsibility for the appreciation (of the savings), but it is impossible to pay them back indexed to today's prices," said Takeo Takahashi who is in charge of the ministry's postal savings' section.

At war-end savings amounting to some 1.04 billion yen had been paid into 3.1 million military postal savings accounts.

While the government refunded prewar and wartime savings to Japanese nationals and South Korea renounced property claims in the 1965 basic treaty with Japan, the matter remains on the agenda with Taiwan.

Though principally acknowledging that the Taiwanese are entitled to their savings, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry blames the absence of diplomatic relations with Taiwan and a slow decision process in other ministries for its failure to speed up the payments.

Osaka Officials, Romania's Negritoiu Meet

AU2305134193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1554 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, ROMPRES, 22/5/1993—The visit to Japan of the Romanian Governmental delegation headed by Minister of State Misu Negritoiu continued in Osaka with interviews with the deputy-governor of the Osaka prefecture, Mr. Yoshida, and the mayor of Osaka, Mr. Nishio.

The Romanian delegation's visit was appreciated by the local authorities as a direct expression of the Romanian Government's interest to extend and diversify commercial and cooperation relations with the Osaka Prefecture and with Japan in general, and an interest was voiced to further the exchange of official delegations and businessmen.

The Romanian delegation met at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry with a group of Japanese businessmen. The numerous questions asked by the participants evinced the interest of the Japanese businessmen in learning about the Romanian Government's policy regarding the currency market and the evolution of the exchange rates, the right to own the buildings and pertaining land, as well as the measures for the development of small and medium enterprises.

The delegation's activity in Osaka ended with a visit to the headquarters of Matsushita Electric Industrial and at the company's presentation center. The discussions tackled the possibility to expand the activity of Panasonic (Matsushita) by passing on from selling its electric and electronic products in Romania to investing of capital in the productive sector, so that it may come to manufacture in Romania some of its high-tech products (electric home appliances, consumer electronics, memory telephones, etc.)

Tokyo Declines Comment on East Timor Allegations

OW2405125593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Japan declined comment Monday on allegations by Portugal and human rights groups that Indonesian authorities denied East Timor rebel leader Xanana Gusmao a fair trial. Japan does not comment on individual court cases, but it will continue to monitor the case if Xanana appeals his sentence of life imprisonment issued last Friday, Hiroharu Hashi, assistant director of the second Southeast Asia division said in a telephone interview.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said he was not prepared to comment, and referred all inquiries on the high-profile trial to the Foreign Ministry.

The sentencing of Xanana, leader of East Timor's independence movement, comes at an awkward time for Tokyo, which is seeking a venue for Indonesian President Suharto to engage in dialogue with leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations when they convene in Tokyo on July 7-9 for an annual summit.

Portugal denounced Xanana's punishment, the maximum sought by Indonesian prosecutors, saying the trial was a farce and was "carried out against a whole background of illegitimacy and violence."

Portugal also appears to be pressing the European Community to bring up the East Timor issue at the summit meeting, said another Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Suharto, current chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, is seeking to meet collectively with G-7 leaders to discuss issues between the developing world and the industrialized nations, and has so far rejected Japan's efforts to arrange bilateral meetings during the summit. Japan is "making its best effort to fill the gap between other G-7 countries and Suharto," the Foreign Ministry official said.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976, a year after it invaded the former Portuguese colony. The United Nations does not recognize Indonesian rule over the territory and regards Portugal as the legal administering authority pending an internationally acceptable settlement.

Xanana, who was prevented from reading most of his defense in the court, was dealt heavy punishment because he "disturbed the life of East Timorese," presiding Judge Hieronymus Godang said. Xanana was sentenced on charges of leading a separatist movement and illegal possession of firearms.

North Korea

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Nuclear Director

SK2205092693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0026 GMT 21 May 93

[NODONG SINMUN 21 May commentary: "Insidious Attempt"]

[Text] A strange idea about nuclear inspection is gaining ground in the United States: that responsibility for nuclear inspection should be transferred from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to the UN Security Council, which has the means to enforce its decision.

Paul Leventhal, director of the Nuclear Control Institute, a U.S. civilian research institute, and others have said this, stating that the nuclear inspection system stipulated in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is clearly vulnerable. An insidious attempt is lurking behind this contention.

It is a well-known fact that the IAEA Secretariat is being manipulated by the United States. As followers of the United States, some IAEA Secretariat officials [ilbugyechung] lost their impartiality and went so far as to adopt a resolution on special inspections [tukpyol sachal] against us.

Having reduced the IAEA Secretariat to its plaything, the United States now seeks to freely use the UN Security Council for its insidious political aims and has already begun to manipulate it. The unreasonable resolution adopted on 11 May regarding our nuclear problem is typical of this manipulation.

Our republic's decision to withdraw from the NPT concerns our legitimate sovereignty. Therefore, no one can make a fuss about this.

A basic mission of the UN Security Council is to discuss actions that wreck world peace and security and to prevent these actions. Our withdrawal from the NPT is just, taken as a step to defend national sovereignty and the supreme interests of the country, not to wreck world peace or to threaten the security of other countries.

It is not we who are attempting to threaten world peace and security and destroy the independence of other countries, but the United States. The United States was the first country to produce nuclear weapons, has the largest stock of them, and is the country that poses a grave nuclear threat to our republic, a nonnuclear country, by abusing the IAEA Charter, the NPT, and even the safeguards accord.

If the UN Security Council is to be fair, it must discuss the criminal acts of the United States, the assailant, not us, the victim, and punish it as it deserves. However, the United States is pulling the wires of the UN Security Council so that it will reverse the identity of assailant and victim.

What the United States is doing to us today it can do to other nonnuclear states tomorrow if the UN Security Council takes responsibility for nuclear inspection. Is that not correct?

Some IAEA Secretariat officials and some members of the UN Security Council must ponder the grave consequences that might arise from following the United States.

The UN Security Council and the IAEA Secretariat should not play into the hands of the superpower but adhere to its principles of international justice and impartiality in keeping with their missions. If they do, they will win the trust of peace-loving people around the world.

U.S. 'Aspiration' To Dominate Asia Denounced

SK2005135593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 20 May 93

[NODONG SINMUN 20 May special article: "A Prerequisite Condition for Peace and Stability in Asia"]

[Text] The Asian people want peace and stability in their region, but their aspiration for them is not yet realized due to the imperialists' maneuvers to dominate Asia.

Contrary to the Asian people's aspiration and desire, the imperialists are intensifying their plots of aggression and war in this region. As a result, tensions are aggravated in this region with each passing day. Peace has been also seriously threatened.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: To maintain peace and security in Asia, the military bases for aggression must be removed from the Asian region, and foreign troops must be also withdrawn from it. The Asian people must positively struggle against aggression and war.

Not only the U.S. troops but also a great number of its nuclear weapons have been deployed in South Korea. This poses a grave threat against peace and security on the Korean peninsula as well as in Asia.

The United States' consistent ambition is to dominate Asia. The United States, linking this region to its life-and-death interests, is running wild to realize its ambition to dominate it. In doing this, it intends to resort to force. With its own might, the United States has gained supremacy over the Asian revolutionary ranks and is sticking to its anachronistic policy of dominating the countries in the Asian region.

Some time ago, the general commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific said that the United States would continue the presence of its troops in the Pacific, including South Korea.

Prior to those remarks, the U.S. defense secretary said: Although the United States has cut its overseas troops because of reductions in the defense budget, the number of its troops in South Korea will remain as it is. Also, there will be no changes in the United States' commitment to South Korea's security.

In his talks with the Japanese defense minister, he also said that a strategy for deploying U.S. troops to frontline areas in Asia and the Pacific region is a life-and-death matter in maintaining peace and security there.

The presence of the U.S. armed forces in Asia accounts for one-third of those deployed abroad. Half of the U.S. combat vessels and two-thirds of its Marines are concentrated in this region. The U.S. forces are deployed in the Asia-Pacific region to thoroughly realize its ambition to dominate it.

The remarks that regard Asia and the Pacific as of great importance to U.S. interests have been recently made more frequently than ever before in the United States. This shows that the United States has tremendous ambitions to dominate this region.

The United States said that the collapse of socialism and the return of capitalism in some regions in recent years were the result of its victory in maintaining peace and welcomed it. This cannot, however, be applied to the Asia-Pacific region. The United States has maneuvered to dominate this region with its own might.

While talking about the withdrawal of U.S. forces from other areas, the United States has maintained and reinforced its troops in the Asia-Pacific region. In realizing its ambition to dominate the Asia-Pacific region, the United States regards South Korea as of great importance. It miscalculates that it can easily dominate Asia when it seizes the Korean peninsula, an important area in its strategy. It is therefore increasing its armed forces in South Korea more than those in any other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The United States has also prepared to rapidly mobilize into South Korea its armed forces from areas near the Korean peninsula and from the Asia-Pacific region in case of an emergency on the Korean peninsula. By strengthening its war exercises, it has led our side to the brink of war.

This was clearly shown by the Team Spirit joint military exercise. F-117 Stealth bomber-fighters, whose shooting capacities were demonstated during war in the Persian Gulf; B1-B strategic bomber-fighters carrying nuclear weapons; and Patriot antimissile missiles were mobilized for the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise resumed by the United States along with the South Korean puppets this year. Also, a great number of combat vessels and planes, including the ultramodern aircraft carriers, were also mobilized for the exercise. The United States even mobilized in the exercise its aggression forces from areas near the Korean peninsula, including the Japanese mainland and Okinawa, and from its own mainland. In its contents, the exercise is not defensive but rather offensive. As clearly shown in the aforementioned facts, the U.S. forces deployed in the Asia-Pacific region are intended to dominate this region with its own might. The United States has maneuvered to gain supremacy over other countries tomorrow, while conducting the military exercise today on the Korean peninsula. It is therefore not difficult to think so.

Many countries, saying now that if war breaks out in Korea, the flame of war will spread to all parts of Asia, have denounced the United States for its reinforcement of war provocation on the Korean peninsula. This is not a coincident.

All facts show that the elimination of the danger of war from the Korean peninsula and the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the Asia-Pacific region, including South Korea, are the preconditions for peace and security in this region.

The United States and its followers are now babbling about our fictitious nuclear development and instability in the Asia-Pacific region arising therefrom. This is its cunning plot aimed at rationalizing its aggression and war maneuvers and at finding an excuse for keeping the presence of its forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

Because the United States continues the presence of its forces in the Asia-Pacific region, the danger of war there is unceasing. Also, peace is being seriously threatened. To build a new Asia which is free and developing, we must remove obstacles that make its development come to a standstill.

The peace-loving Asian people must cooperate to remove the U.S. military bases for aggression from the Asian region, to withdraw its troops, and to vigorously struggle against aggression and war. Only when they do it, will peace and security in the Asian region be guaranteed.

Daily Denounces U.S. Security Conference Plans

SK2305093293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0903 GMT 23 May 93

["NODONG SINMUN on U.S. Scheme To Found 'All-Asia Conference on Security and Cooperation'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—The "All-Asia Conference on Security and Cooperation" which the United States is scheming to set up is an instrument for destroying socialist countries in Asia and maintaining and extending its sphere of domination over this region, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

The article entitled "Aggressive Design for Domination of Asia" goes on:

To establish domination over Asia is a consistent strategy of the United States and this design of theirs has become all the more ambitious today.

The Asia-Pacific region occupies a vast area with affluent human and material resources and has more strategic vantage points than any other region of the world. Attaching greater importance to Asia, therefore, the United States is leaving no stones unturned in a bid to maintain its domination over this region. It is directing the spearhead of attack against socialist countries in this region, the chief obstacle to the realization of its dominationist ambition, in an effort to destroy them. It has resorted to heinous politico-ideological and economic offensives against socialist countries and, at the same time, deployed huge armed forces in forward areas of the region with an apparent view to reinforcing its military siege against the socialist countries.

In knocking into shape a tool of collective domination and interference in the Asia-Pacific region the United States is seeking to use it as a political, economic and military lever for containing and destroying socialist countries and establishing domination and control over the region.

It is the plan of the United States to mount collective sanctions on the countries which pose a danger to it and remove them by use of force through the formation of its orchestrated "All-Asia Conference on Security and Cooperation".

The heinous nuclear racket of the United States against the DPRK follows this strategy. The United States is straining the situation in this region, trying to use the fictitious "nuclear arms development" by the North as an excuse for justifying its military occupation of South Korea and aggressive and belligerent moves against the DPRK.

The "All-Asia Conference on Security and Cooperation" is from A to Z anti-socialist, aggressive and predatory in its character and purpose.

Should this "conference" be established in Asia, it would bring a new collective threat to Asian countries.

The Asian people must heighten vigilance against the wicked U.S. scheme to bring Asia under its control and establish domination and control over it, and smash it promptly.

Group Demands U.S. Apology for 'Criminal Acts'

SK2305092893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0856 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the North side's headquarters of the Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) in a statement May 22 demanded that the United States should apologize for all its criminal acts against the Korean nation including the manipulation of the Kwangju incident and go home, taking its hands off Korea.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group was the blood-stained sword that slaughtered over 5,000 people and wounded more than 14,000 others in Kwangju in May 13 years ago, while the United States was the hilt of the sword, the spokesman said, and went on:

Now South Korean students and people of different strata are directing the arrow of their struggle at the United States, demanding a probe into the truth behind the Kwangju incident and the punishment of chief culprits. This is a legitimate and just struggle.

Even mountains and rivers change their appearance in ten years. 13 years have elapsed since the Kwangju popular uprising, but the aspirations of the Kwangju martyrs for independence, democracy and reunification have not been realized yet.

The U.S. domination and interference in South Korea has not ceased, and the South Korean authorities are still failing to renounce their pro-American policy of flunkeyist submission.

The present South Korean authorities who had made a "commitment" to "a solution of the Kwangju problem" before coming to power are defending the United States, the mastermind of the Kwangju massacre, and fascist murderers, openly cracking down on the righteous struggle of South Korean students and people.

They must make a bold decision to renounce the policy of dependence on foreign forces and break away from the U.S. embrace and show the honesty of their "civilian government" through a thorough probe into the truth behind the Kwangju massacre and severe punishment of the murderers and chief culprits in the massacre.

The North side's headquarters of Pomchonghaknyon will fight in the future, too, firmly joining hands with the youth and students in the South in the struggle to defend the aspirations of the Kwangju resistance fighters from the aggressors and traitors and bring them into reality, stressed the spokesman.

U.S. Conducts Air Exercises 19-21 May

SK2305091493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0823 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors staged an exercise of aerial mobile and deployment from their overseas air bases to South Korean bases for three consecutive days, according to military sources.

On May 19, formations of Pacific-based nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and assault planes were deployed at airfields of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces present in South Korea. On May 20 and 21, formations of nuclear-capable fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes, electronic jamming planes and tanker planes which took off from the U.S. Air Force bases in Japan and the Guam Island kicked up a row, continuously landing on U.S. airfields in South Korea through long-distance flights.

The reckless war games are provocative gambles designed to examine the capability of quick deployment and entry into combat operations of overseas-based flying groups of various types on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists must look squarely at the grave situation obtaining on the Korean peninsula and stop behaving rashly.

Daily Urges UN Not To Follow 'Superpower' Scheme

SK2205052193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 22 May 93

["U.N. Must Not Be Tool for Arbitrary Practice of Superpower"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—The arbitrary practice and privileges of imperialism must not be tolerated at the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council must not be abused for the scheme of a superpower to infringe on the sovereignty of other countries, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

The author of the article says:

The United States recently had an unreasonable "resolution" adopted, contravening the U.N. charter and the mission of the Security Council, by raising "nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK, a non-nuclear peaceful state. This is an unjustifiable act that fully conflicts with the mission of the U.N. Security Council which should serve for defence of international justice and peace.

The adoption of the "resolution" is unjustifiable in that the United States, the offender in the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, initiated its draft and forced its passage.

It is not the DPRK but the U.S. pursuing a dominationist policy as a nuclear power that is responsible for the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. But, the United States, craftily taking advantage of its position of the only superpower in the world and its permanent membership in the U.N. Security Council, reversed black and white and fabricated the unreasonable "resolution" at the Security Council, incriminating the DPRK, the victim.

The adoption of the "resolution" is unjustifiable also in that the U.N. Security Council blocks negotiation today, though it called for it in the "statement" of its president only yesterday.

Even after declaring our withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, we promoted negotiation with the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and actively worked to solve the problem through talks with the United States, the party responsible for the problem.

At this time, the United States negated the position of the U.N. Security Council encouraging negotiation and manipulated it to adopt the unreasonable "resolution." Such abnormal developments in the U.N. arena these days are attributable to the arrogant ambition of the United States for world domination to lord it over as the "sole leader of the world" after the end of the cold war. It is also because some countries play the role of hand-raising machine and servants of the United States, yielding to its policy of strength.

SKNDF Issues Statement on ROK Nuclear Program

SK2305084893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0819 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) published an indictment on May 20 accusing the South Korean authorities of their nuclear arms development and nuclear armament stepped up on the pretext of "nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK, Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

According to the indictment, the South Korean rulers, acting as a shock brigade in spreading the "rumor of nuclear suspicion" against the North, are showing signs of undisguised nuclear armament with an outspoken argument for "nuclear sovereignty" to counter it.

In actuality, a large amount of plutonium is being secured in South Korea on the plea of "nuclear suspicion" against the North. At present, the South has stockpiled a huge amount of spent nuclear fuel containing about ten tons of plutonium, which is expected to reach by the year 2000 the amount enough to extract 24 tons of plutonium. The plutonium contained in the spent nuclear fuel now in stock in South Korea is an amount enough to make 1,500 20 kiloton- class A-bombs, the kind of A-bomb dropped on Nagasaki by the United States.

South Korea has already established a plutonium production system and extracted plutonium systematically while undergoing even inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the end of last year it completed a new 30,000 kilowatt-class multi-purpose reactor (KMRR) to extract much more plutonium and reconstructed the surveyed experimental facilities on a larger extensive basis.

All the more dangerous is the fact that it is now stepping up the operation of purchasing plutonium massively from third countries.

The South Korean authorities are introducing mixed oxide of plutonium and uranium from Britain.

In this regard, Peter Hayes, an Australian nuclear military expert and anti-nuke activist, in an article entitled "South Korea's Development of Nuclear Armaments" said South Korea's move is evidently to follow the example of Japan which is intended to stockpile at least 84 tons of plutonium till 2010.

As a result of the stepped-up moves for the manufacture of nuclear warheads in South Korea, the Taedok

Research Complex, the general headquarters of nuclear arms development, came into operation in November 1992, four or five years earlier than planned.

The area of Tokjin-tong in Yusong district where the South Korean Atomic Energy Institute of the Taedok Research Complex is situated has turned into a nuclear fissionable material extraction base, and the area of Chaun-tong near Mt. Kumbyong into an explosion test base, and the area of Sunam-tong into a centre for the study and development of means of nuclear delivery, and the large underground base in the area of Mt. Kyeryong turned into a centre for the manufacture of nuclear warheads.

The replacement of means of nuclear delivery by long-distance capable ones has been pressed forward frantically.

The report "Plan of Strategic Departments of the Committee for Research and Development Activation" which was drafted by the "Defence Ministry" already in 1989 said "missiles with a range of 500 km would be developed by 1995 and those with a range of 1,500 km by 2000."

This plan has recently been put into practice earlier than scheduled as a whole, with investment in the development of missiles sharply increasing.

Nuclear arms development teams of South Korea which developed already in 1989 a "satellite-pursued electric wave reception device" known as one of the basic technologies in satellite operation have worked out and are promoting a plan of developing an earth scientific satellite by 1993 and a rocket satellite capable of carrying objects weighing 200 to 400 kg by 1999.

The South Korean authorities' dangerous nuclear arms development and nuclear armament are creating a new danger on the Korean peninsula, the indictment says, and stresses:

The South Korean people will vigorously fight to check and frustrate them.

Daily Urges 'Full Solution' to Kwangju Problem

SK2305091593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 23 May 93

["Kwangju Problem Must Be Solved Thoroughly"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today notes that the brutal Kwangju massacre of May, 1980, unprecedented in history in terms of cruelty and brutality, left an indelible deep-rooted rancour in the hearts of the people.

Urging a full solution of the Kwangju problem, the article says:

The solution of the Kwangju problem is a matter of venting the people's spite, and, at the same time, an indispensable requisite to the independent, democratic development of the South Korean society.

In actuality, the military fascist dictatorial system which came into being as the "Fifth Republic" emerging from a sea of blood of Kwangju and lasted through the "Sixth Republic" exists in South Korea, and the murderers who had caused the tragic bloodbath are swaggering about still now.

The part and parcel of the South Korean people's demand for a right solution of the Kwangju problem is not only to punish the murderers but to remove the military fascist dictatorial system and terminate the aggression and intervention of the United States, the wirepuller of the massacre.

No sign of such will is showing in the words and deeds of the South Korean authorities who claim "civilian government". This cannot be viewed as a sincere attitude to break with the dictatorial forces of the "Fifth and "Sixth Republics" and take the road to democracy.

If the new South Korean "regime" really seeks civilian politics and reform as desired by the people, it should thoroughly investigate the truth behind the Kwangju incident and bring the principal culprits to justice as demanded by the people, and put an end to the dictatorial system and make a reform for democratic development.

And it must renounce the U.S.-toeing policy and get the U.S. Forces pulled out of South Korea.

KCNA Reports Student Demonstrations in South

SK2305092293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0849 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA)—An estimated 2,000 students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) held a rally at Tanguk University on May 22 to demand a probe into the truth of the May 18 incident, the punishment of chief culprits in the massacre and an official apology of the United States on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Kwangju resistance, according to reports from Seoul.

They said the probe and punishment of chief culprits is an undertaking to lay the ground for clarifying the historical character of the Kwangju resistance.

Having declared this day "Anti-American Day", the students asserted that there would have been no Kwangju massacre but for the prior and tacit U.S. approval. They strongly urged the United States to officially apologize to the people, bearing the responsibility for it.

At the end of the rally they attempted to march out the campus gate, yelling "drive out Yankees", when more than 2,500 police troops blocked their way. Angry students burned a U.S. flag and fiercely battled with the police.

Hanchongnyon announced that they would launch a sit-in strike at the Myongdong Cathedral for five days from May 22 in demand of the punishment of chief culprits in the Kwangju massacre.

Foreign Minister Meets Indonesian Vice President

SK2305095693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam met Indonesian Vice President Try Sutrisno on 19 May. The vice president asked the foreign minister to convey his sincere greetings and wishes for long life and good health to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The vice president expressed support in our people's struggle for the fatherland's reunification.

On 17 May, the foreign minister was invited to a banquet arranged by the Indonesian foreign minister. The foreign minister held a news conference on 18 May at the press center of the presidential palace.

Returns From Indonesia

SK2205230993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and his entourage flew back home today after attending a meeting of the Standing Ministerial Committee of Nonaligned Countries for Economic Cooperation held in Indonesia and visiting this country.

They were met at the airport by First Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu and the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Indonesian Embassy and the Chinese ambassador here.

WPK, Other Delegations Depart for PRC 22 May

SK2205104693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—A party workers' delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Pak Chun-kun, vice-director of a department of the party Central Committee, and a women's union delegation of Korea led by O Yon-ok, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union, left here for China today.

A delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society led by Acting Chairman Yi Song-ho left here today to attend the 4th Asia and Pacific regional conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to be held in China.

Delegations Depart For, Arrive From PRC 24 May

SK2405102893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 24 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Central Public Prosecutor's Office led by Deputy Prosecutor-general Ko Yong-pung left here today for a visit to China.

A delegation of the Ministry of Public Security of China headed by Vice-minister Bai Jingfu arrived here on the same day.

Spokesman Criticizes Plutonium Sales to Japan

SK2405055993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 24 (KCNA)—Britain and France must stop their criminal acts of encouraging Japan and South Korea to nuclear armament, the hotbeds of nuclear war in the Far East, instead of resorting to such hypocritical deeds as trying to put pressure upon somebody, while talking about nuclear non-proliferation.

A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry stressed this, speaking in response to a question put by KCNA Sunday regarding the sale of plutonium to Japan and South Korea by Britain and France.

He said:

Materials are being discovered one after another recently exposing that Britain and France have exported a great deal of plutonium to Japan several times and are intending to deliver it to South Korea, too.

In a report submitted to an international meeting held in Vienna some time ago, Japan admitted that it had purchased fissionable plutonium on nine occasions from Europe from 1975 to 1992. It also said that a British nuclear material company is going to open its office in South Korea and sell out plutonium.

These facts vividly show that the West is openly promoting nuclear proliferation behind the scene, while putting up the slogan of "nuclear nonproliferation", and that Japan and the South Korean authorities are stepping up their nuclear armament under the aegis of nuclear weapon states.

Japan and the South Korean authorities have raised a hue and cry over the DPRK's fictitious "nuclear problem", and this was a trick to cover up their nuclear armament.

Providing Japan which is now capable of making nuclear weapons any time with more plutonium than necessary and turning over nuclear materials to the Southern half of the Korean peninsula in a state of ceasefire is a very dangerous act of wrecking peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

We cannot remain an onlooker to the British and French sale of a huge amount of nuclear materials to Japan and their plan to deliver plutonium to South Korea, too.

Britain and France must remember the lessons from the ignominious defeat they sustained in the Korean war as victims of the United States' aggressive Korea policy.

Japan and the South Korean authorities must immediately stop purchasing plutonium from other countries and discard the nuclear armament design that poses a threat to peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia.

WPK, Ukrainian Socialist Party Issue Statement

SK2105013993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2305 GMT 20 May 93

[Joint statement between the Workers Party of Korea and the Socialist Party of Ukraine issued in Pyongyang on 20 May]

[Text] A delegation of the Socialist Party of the Ukraine [SPU] headed by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Moroz, chairman of the Political Council of the SPU, visited the DPRK on 14-20 May 1993 at the invitation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK].

While visiting various places in Pyongyang and local areas during its stay in the DPRK, the SPU delegation watched the Koreans' struggle to build the popular masses-oriented socialism, which embodies the chuche idea.

Talks between delegations of the WPK and the SPU were held in Pyongyang on 17 May 1993. At the talks, which were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, the two sides informed each other of their parties' situations and activities. They exchanged views on questions of common concern, including further developing relations between the two parties and international issues. They then expressed their common view and position as follows:

The WPK fully supports the SPU's activities to build a society which embodies social justice and where the people have their full rights.

The SPU wholeheartedly respects the WPK and the Koreans who are excellently building socialism with single-hearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. They do not waver under the pressure of any antirepublic, antisocialist maneuvers by the imperialists. The SPU expresses full support for and solidarity with their cause.

The WPK and the SPU regard the removal of all nuclear weapons to be the most important condition for protecting life on the globe.

Expressing support for the DPRK's struggle to defend its rights in the international community, the SPU holds that all problems related to world order, including the nuclear issue, should be solved under the principle of equal rights and responsibility of all countries. Big powers, including the United States, should not force their will upon other UN member nations.

The UN Security Council kicked up the commotion of discussing the nuclear inspection issue of the DPRK, which is beyond its authority. This is typical of such pressure.

Believing that the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which the United States and the South Korean authorities stage every year, is a dangerous nuclear war exercise that poses a grave threat to peace and security on the Korean peninsula, in Asia, and the rest of the world, the SPU supports the Korean people's vehement indignation against the exercise.

The fact that the communist parties, the workers parties, and the progressive political parties from some 180 different countries signed the Pyongyang Declaration clearly proves their firm will to defend and advance the cause of socialism. To defend and advance the cause of socialism, each party should be strengthened organizationally and ideologically. In addition, each party should prepare policies independently and in accordance with the specific situation of its country. They should implement them, rely on the popular masses, and should strengthen internationalist unity and solidarity.

Because of the imperialist forces' maneuvers to split [punnyol] and obliterate [malsal] the socialist movement, regional disputes and disputes among races and ethnic groups are constantly taking place today, and this threatens world peace and security.

The two sides stress that to defend peace and security, they should resolutely struggle against aggression, war, and the infringement upon territorial integrity and sovereignty of other countries. Believing that foreign interference, the presence of foreign troops, and foreign military bases are the basic factors infringing upon the sovereignty of countries and nations and creating tensions, the two sides hold that U.S. forces and their nuclear weapons should be withdrawn from South Korea without delay and that Korea's reunification should be achieved under the principle of national independence, based on the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for national reunification declared by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The WPK and the SPU will also in the future oppose the domination of capital, the enslavement of workers, aggression, and war and will closely support and cooperate with each other in the struggle for independence, democracy, and socialism. They will also further develop friendly relations through the exchange of delegations and opinions on the matters of mutual concern.

Daily Calls for Development of Socialism

SK2205050993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 22 May 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Creation of 'Speed of General Onward March of Our-Style Socialism'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today editorially calls on the whole party and the entire people to turn out in the creation of "Speed of the General Onward March of Our-Style Socialism."

The editorial says the revolutionary essence of the party's call on the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war for creating this speed is to create the fastest speed of advance ever in history through the powerful single-hearted unity around the party and the leader and bring into full play the advantages of our socialism in all domains.

The editorial continues:

The drive to create this speed is one to successfully carry forward the spirit of Chollima and the speed campaign, the traditional fighting spirit of our people.

Over the past 40 years since their great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, our people have made the march of Chollima and the march of the speed campaign with unexampled mass heroism, patriotic devotion and indomitable will. "Speed of the General Onward March of Our-Style Socialism" is an unprecedented one which can be created only by the heroic Korean people who are vigorously fighting for a new victory, having taken over the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu, Chollima and the speed campaign. Creation of this speed leads to the way of powerfully demonstrating again the indomitable stamina of our people, a heroic people who defeated the U.S. imperialists and defended the national dignity and socialism and a revolutionary people who built the most superior socialist society on ruins through a hard struggle.

Creation of this speed by the whole party and the entire people is a very honorable and responsible undertaking to valiantly smash the anti-DPRK, anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and reactionaries and discharge the noble mission assumed by our party and people for the times and history. Herein lies a firm guarantee for winning the fierce battle at the crossroads of socialism and capitalism and firmly defending the bulwark of socialism.

In order to create this speed, the entire party members and working people must cherish deep in mind the firm conviction of certain victory of our socialist cause, give full play to the revolutionary habit of fulfilling the party's decisions and instructions and the tasks set forth by the party without fail and giving an impetus to the mass technical innovation movement in all domains.

Daily Stresses Importance of Self-Reliance

SK2105110193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON in a by-lined article today stresses that self-reliance is the way of victory of socialism, calling upon the working people to bring about a great upsurge in socialist economic construction by highly displaying this spirit.

Self-reliance is the traditional trait of struggle fully displayed in decades of the Korean revolution, the article notes, and continues:

The Korean people have carved out their destinies by their own efforts always maintaining the firm independent stand and advanced the socialist cause victoriously, standing all grim trials.

History proves how just it is to do all by one's own efforts even though it is difficult and hard and that the socialist cause can be accomplished only through self-reliance.

It is a matter of vital importance for the victory of socialism now to advance under the banner of self-reliance hitherto upheld in the course of the protracted revolution.

There is no other way but self-reliance to defend socialism at the moment when the imperialists are intensifying their pressure and challenge, threat and blockade.

Very high is the degree of revolutionary enthusiasm of the people who are now smashing the moves of the imperialists and reactionaries to blockade and stifle them economically, upholding the banner of self-reliance.

The Korean people will never pin hopes on anyone or try to build socialism with the help of others.

It is their invariable will to bring about an economic upsurge through their own efforts and defend socialism.

Only when the revolutionary banner of self-reliance is held higher is it possible to make a leaping progress in all fields of socialist construction and consolidate the Korean-style socialism as an impregnable fortress.

WPK Members Urged To Become Vanguard Fighters

SK2105134893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0014 GMT 21 May 93

[NODONG SINMUN 21 May editorial: "Let the Party Members Become Vanguard Fighters in Implementing the Party Policy"]

[Text] Today our party wants the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] members to become the vanguard fighters in the rewarding struggle to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of our victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War.

It is a revolutionary mission of our party members to accomplish the party's line and policy at the van. Party members are conscious revolutionaries who have been fostered in our party's bosom and who pledged before the party to struggle by dedicating their lives to the party and to victory of the socialist cause.

The noble title of a WPK member is the most honorable title that can be cherished only by genuine revolutionaries of our era. The title of party member includes our party's lofty political trust, and illuminates the most precious political life.

Our party members should thoroughly defend and carry on to accomplishment the intentions and plans of the party and the leader, as well as the line and policy of the party. Herein lies the genuine road for the party members to fulfill their duties and missions assigned by the party and by the revolution and to glorify their political lives.

It is an urgent demand in most significantly greeting the 40th anniversary of the war victory that our party members become the vanguard fighters in implementing the party's policy.

The 40th anniversary of our victory in the Fatherland Liberation War is a revolutionary festival to display to the entire world the historic victory of our people and People's Army in frustrating the U.S. imperialists' armed aggression and in defending the nation's freedom and independence.

The 40th anniversary of war victory is an important occasion to demonstrate the heroic spirit and invincible will of our party and people who are defending, protecting and glorifying the socialist cause while crushing the imperialists' various challenges and maneuvers of aggression.

Our party is hoping that the party members will advance by highly flying the banner of innovations in today's solemn march to brilliantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory and that they will play the role of vanguard fighters in all combat sites of socialist construction.

Today the WPK members, who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader, are firmly defending the revolutionary guard posts in all domains and units across the country. When our party members stir up themselves and struggle with enhanced revolutionary spirit in all domains and all guard posts in socialist construction, all the people throughout the country will be inspired, and constant innovations and upsurges will be registered in our people's struggle to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory.

All party members, deeply cherishing the party's trust and expectations, should play the role of vanguard fighters in the rewarding march to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory as victors' great festival. Thus, they should create the speed of the general march of our-style-socialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The road for party members to offer loyalty and filial piety to the party and the leader is to carry out assigned works responsibly and satisfactorily. Although the works assigned to party members are different from each other, these works are equally a glorious revolutionary mission to realize the plans and intentions of the party and the leader.

All party members should have a lofty political consciousness to glorify the noble title of the WPK members in today's rewarding march to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory.

The WPK is a great party with indomitable might which carries out the socialist cause at the van by holding in high esteem in its supreme position the greatest and tested leader [yongdoja] of the revolution.

Thus, the pride and dignity as members of the WPK, which is leading the time and revolution at the van, are matchlessly lofty. All party members should glorify the title of the WPK members in today's rewarding struggle to greet the 40th anniversary of war victory with lofty political enthusiasm and brilliant labor feats. They should advance at the van of the masses and carry on to accomplishment all assigned tasks that are related to the party policy.

Today we are faced unprecedentedly heavy and enormous tasks. This exciting reality demands that all party members rise with lofty political awareness and determination, as well as consciousness of the party works.

All party members should keenly aware that they are a standard-bearer to implement our party's intentions and plans at the van and that their works are endlessly valuable works to display the superiority of socialism of our own style by realizing the lofty ideas and intentions of the party and the leader.

The vanguard role of our party members should also be fully demonstrated in constantly effecting innovations and feats in their assigned revolutionary guard posts on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of war victory.

The honor of a party member is to be glorified in implementing the party's intentions and plans at the van and in constantly creating miracles and innovations in production and construction.

Our party embarked on today's great gigantic march by trusting our party members' loyalty to the party and the revolution. Party members should dedicate all of their energy and efforts to repay our party's great trust with actual achievements in work.

Party members in all domains and units of national economy should glorify the 40th anniversary of war victory by creating the speed of the general march of socialism of our style. By always deeply cherishing the intention of our party center [uri tang chungang] to fully display the might of socialism in our country, party members should continuously innovate and advance by highly flying the banner at the van of today's rewarding march.

Party members in key industrial sectors, including coal industry, electric power industry and metallurgical industry, as well as in transportation sector, should open a breakthrough for a new great upsurge by fulfilling the assigned combat tasks without fail.

Party members in major construction sites, including the construction site of the Monument of War Victory and the site of building 30,000 houses in the capital, should shorten the work period of construction to the maximum by displaying the mass heroism.

Party members in the rural economic sector should keenly realize that the struggle for grain production is the struggle for socialism and should glorify this year—the 40th anniversary of war victory—by thoroughly implementing the chuche agricultural method.

Party members in domains of light industry, fisheries, and service, should brilliantly realize the party's intention to further upgrade the people's living standard this year—the 40th anniversary of war victory—by overfulfilling the combat tasks assigned them.

For our party members to fulfill the mission as vanguard fighters of the revolution, they should also become political activists who educate and inspire the masses.

Success in today's rewarding struggle to create the new march speed of socialist construction will depend on how we organize and inspire the might and wisdom of a broad range of the masses.

For us to effect a new great upsurge in socialist construction, we should inspire and move all people in a manner that one moves 10 people, 10 move 100, and 100 move 1,000. Herein lies an important key to registering a new great upsurge in socialist construction.

Our party members should make themselves not only the vanguard fighters of the revolution but also political activists who positively educate the masses and skillfully move them.

While sharing joy and sorrow with the masses, all party members should powerfully wage the political work to educate and inspire the masses, and should inspire and encourage them to new exploits by voluntarily joining in difficult works before any others.

In particular, functionaries—commanding members of the revolution—should advance by upholding the banner at the van. All party members should skillfully carry out the political work and production commanding at the van with lofty revolutionary spirit, party spirit, working-class spirit and people-mindedness. Thus, they should see to it that a great production upsurge be registered in all units of socialist construction.

For party members to fulfill the role as the vanguard fighters in today's rewarding struggle to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory, it is important for party organizations at all levels to satisfactorily carry out the work with party members.

Party organizations and party functionaries should go down to the seething combat sites and make party members keenly understand the profound ideas and contents included in the party's slogans while working and eating with them.

Party organizations should intensify the indoctrination work among party members to enhance their awareness of how they should live and struggle in today's rewarding march to implement the party's slogans. At the same time, party organizations should concretely put forward the goals of combat to effect a new great upsurge in socialist construction according to the tasks assigned to their domains and units. They should satisfactorily summarize the condition in execution of such goals so that all party members aggressively work with lofty political awareness and significantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory with miracles and innovations.

Daily: 10-Point Program Can Solve Problems

SK2205103293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 22 May 93

["Great Political Programme Indicating Way of Solving National Problem on Basis of Chuche Outlook on Nation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today describes the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation as a great political programme indicating a unique way of solving the national problem on the basis of the chuche outlook on the nation.

The author of the article says:

The ideological and theoretical basis of the 10-point programme is the chuche outlook on the nation, an embodiment of the immortal chuche idea.

The 10-point programme is a political programme for the solution of the national problem because it is a banner of strategic unity which pushes to the fore the demand of the nation for independence.

It is a programme of the great unity of the nation for the solution of the reunification question of our divided country. It gives top priority to the national demand for independence and it is for strategic unity of the nation, not for a temporary unity.

Therefore, it is an inspiring banner giving courage and strength and acceptable to any Korean who does not want to be a slave of others and a victim of outside forces.

Another reason why it is a political programme for the solution of the national problem is that it is a great charter of unity which gives comprehensive answers to the questions arising in the achievement of great national unity.

The programme defines it as its final objective to found a unified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, and patriotism and the spirit of national independence as the ideological basis of unity. [sentence as received] It sets it as the fundamental principle of unity to promote co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinate everything to the cause of reunification, and indicates detailed ways of unity ranging from stop of political disputes to the praise of those who contributed to reunification.

Another reason is that it is a programme of great unity which firmly guarantees the nation's desire for defence of national independence and achievement of common prosperity of the nation.

The programme firmly ensures common prosperity of the nation through national unity not only in the course of national reunification but also after the reunification.

The publication of this programme is a graphic expression of the great benevolent politics of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The fulfilment of this programme is firmly guaranteed by the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who is carrying forward the tradition of great national unity.

KCNA Reviews 24 May NODONG SINMUN

SK2405060893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0544 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a solidarity message the great leader President Kim Il-song received from Walid Jumblatt, president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon, supporting "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" advanced by him and a letter of thanks sent to President Kim Il-song by Mohamedoun Dicko, secretary general of the Executive Committee of the African Party for the Solidarity and Justice of Mali, leaving Korea.

Given in the paper are a letter to President Kim Il-song from the participants in a Guinean national seminar on the chuche idea and an account of the seminar.

Indian publications carried the brief biography of President Kim Il-song, says the paper.

An article of the paper says that President Kim Il-song powerfully aroused the heroic Korean working class to the wartime production during the fatherland liberation war.

Appearing in the paper is a letter to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from Ludo Martens, chairman of the Central Committee of tpe Belgian labour party, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the publication of the Pyongyang declaration.

The paper editorially calls for dynamically advancing with the conviction of sure victory and optimism.

Econews of the paper includes reports about the successful progress of the rice transplanting in the rural communities across the country and innovations in coal, electric power and metal domains in hearty response to the calls of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea made on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the fatherland liberation war.

Under the title "Profound Artistic Depiction of the Ever-Victorious Command of the Great Military Strategist" the paper introduces the revolutionary drama "Under the Banner of Victory".

The drama depicts profoundly on a high ideological and artistic level the glorious and brilliant history of revolutionary activities and undying feats of the great leader who led the fatherland liberation war to victory.

The paper informs the readers that the Zambian president received the DPRK ambassador to Zambia.

On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the formation of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon), the paper runs an article headlined "Chongnyon That Started New History of Chuche-Based Overseas Koreans' Movement."

A South Korean opposition party branded the present "regime" as an heir to the military "regime", according to the paper.

The paper draws attention of the readers to the aerial mobility and deployment exercise staged by the U.S. imperialists.

Printed in the paper is the answer of the spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry to the question put by the KCNA as regards the sale of plutonium to Japan and South Korea by Britain and France.

It is reported in the paper that the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation was supported in different countries, the unjustifiable "resolution" of the United Nations security council concerning the socalled North's "nuclear problem" was denounced abroad and the Jordanian paper AL-DUSTUR recently exposed the crime of the Japanese imperialists in using Koreans as guinea-pigs for bacteriological warfare.

The paper gives accounts of a meeting of the Nordic Cooperation Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with the Korean People and of the 17th meeting of the coordinating committee of the news agencies pool of the nonaligned countries.

The paper runs an article titled "Mid-east Peace Process Fails To Go Ahead".

KCNA Reviews 22 May Pyongyang Press

SK2205054993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 22 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 22 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to chairman of the Presidential Council of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the National Day of the Republic of Yemen.

Papers report that solidarity messages came to the great leader President Kim Il-song from foreign party leaders and organisations supporting "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" advanced by him.

A brief biography of President Kim Il-song was carried by Indian and Zairean papers, according to NODONG SINMUN.

Seen in the paper are a message of greetings sent by the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to the fifth congress of the For Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland and a message of condolence sent by the C.C., the WPK to the C.C., the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxism-Leninism) on the death of its general secretary.

An article of the paper says that the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have turned the Songhyon cooperative farm in Onchon County, South Pyongan Province on the west coast of Korea, into a paradise.

NODONG SINMUN runs an editorial titled "Let Whole Party and Entire People Turn Out To Create 'Speed of General Onward March of Our-Style Socialism'" and a political essay captioned "Party Calls Us to New Victory" and MINJU CHOSON an editorial headlined "Let Us Hold Higher the Red Flag of Revolution, Full of Faith and Optimism."

Papers introduces great achievements made in different domains of the national economy in hearty response to the calls issued by the WPK Central Committee on the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article titled "Faith in Socialism and Morality For It Are Firm Guarantee for Defence of Socialist Cause."

The paper reports a joint statement issued by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Communist Party KPML (R) of Sweden in Pyongyang.

South Korean news columns of the press include a report that South Korean students staged a demonstration denouncing the United States which had manipulated the Kwangju massacre.

An article of NODONG SINMUN says the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country is a great political programme indicating the way of solving the national problem on the basis of the chuche outlook on the nation, and an article of MINJU CHOSON explains the sixth point of the programme.

Papers report that South Korean people, Overseas Koreans and world public circles are actively supporting this programme and foreign parties and public circles denounced the "resolution" of the U.N. Security Council regarding the "nuclear problem" of the DPRK and expressed full support to the Korean people's cause of justice.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article titled "U.N. Must Not Be Tool for Arbitrary Practice of Superpower."

MINJU CHOSON observes the 3rd National Day of the Yemeni people.

South Korea

Reportage: President To Make New Military Appointments

Spokesman Comments

SK2405023993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam has decided to replace Gen. Yi Pil-sop, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other Army generals who took part in a "coup-like incident" on Dec. 12, 1979, presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said Monday.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Yi Yang-ho will replace Yi as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the spokesman said.

Kim takes the action as a follow-up to his re-definition of the 1979 incident and military suppression of the democracy movement in Kwangju on May 18, 1980, sources said.

"President Kim will formally appoint Gen. Yi Yang-ho chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday," Yi said.

President Kim will also place Gen. Kim Chin-son, commander of the Second Army, and Lt. Gen. An Pyong-ho, deputy commander, on the reserve list. Both of them were part of the 1979 coup-like undertaking led by Gen. Chon Tu-hwan, who went on to become president.

Kim is to appoint Lt. Gen. Pak Se-hwan, commander of the Combat Arms Training Command (CATA), commander of the Second Army.

He will name a new Air Force chief of staff and chief of naval operations to replace Gen. [as received] Kim Chol-u, who resigned in connection with a promotion-for-money scandal, the spokesman said.

Talking to reporters, spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said that the reshuffle was part of President Kim's election pledge to rebuild the nation's military to deserve the people's trust and modernize the Armed Forces.

The reshuffle was also aimed at ending the military's involvement in politics, which had "smeared" the constitutional history of the country, and to let the military carry out its sole and original mission, which was protecting the nation, Yi said.

A series of new appointments would establish the command hierarchy, Yi added.

The Defense Ministry is expected to follow up the appointments to top posts with reshuffles of its own for lower ranking officers who participated in the 1979 revolt.

Yi said the government had thoroughly investigated those who were responsible and would take action against those who "actively took part in the incident, going beyond the call of their official duties."

"Gen. Yi Pil-sop and Admiral Kim Chol-u, chief of naval operations, have already expressed their intention to resign from their posts," Yi said.

He said the government had also investigated those suspected of taking part in the military suppression of the Kwangju movement but could not take issue with those lower ranking officers who had followed orders.

The government was investigating those who left the chain of command and acted on their own, Yi said.

There were no plans to prosecute civilian participants in the 1979 coup-like incident, he said.

Appointment of the Air Force chief of staff as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was a first in Korean military history, and reflected President Kim's plan to balance development of all three branches of the Armed Forces, he said.

Kim Makes Appointments 24 May

SK2405105293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1035 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Monday [24 May] designated Lt. Gen. Cho Kun-hae, director of Intelligence Headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as new Air Force chief of staff. Cho will succeed as Air Force chief of staff Gen. Yi Yang-ho who was reassigned as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, it was learned that President Kim designated Rear Admiral Kim Hong-yol, director of battle ability evaluation department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as chief of naval operations.

Kim would be the replacement of Chief of Naval Operations Kim Chol-u who tendered resignation on Monday in connection with promotion scandals in the Navy.

Rear Admiral Kim is to be promoted to vice admiral upon his appointment as chief of naval operations, said a source, adding he was named the top Navy officer over the head of three vice admirals.

New Military Officials Profiled

SK2405035893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0332 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—Following are the sketch profiles of Gen. Yi Yang-ho, newly appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Pak Se-hwan, new commander of the Second Army:

—The new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS], Air Force Gen. Yi Yang-ho, leaps to the nation's highest military post just seven months after he became Air Force Chief of Staff.

Yi, 56, is a native of Chongju, North Chungchong Province, and a graduate of the eighth class of the Air Force Academy.

He has held such important posts as commander of a combat air wing, deputy chief of staff for operations at the Air Force headquarters and commander of operations.

Yi is not new to the JCS since he was chief of the JCS staff for intelligence, a slot usually reserved for Air Force generals.

A man of calmness and rationality, Yi is expected to provide the JCS a shot in the arm as it tackles the paramount tasks of defense modernization and Koreanization.

—Gen. Pak Se-hwan, new commander of the Second Army, is the first officer with four stars to come from the ranks of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Pak, 54, a native of Andong, North Kyongsang Province, graduated from Seoul's Korea University in 1963.

Upon commission as a second lieutenant in the first class of the ROTC in 1963, Pak served as a platoon leader.

He took part in the Vietnam war from 1967 to 1968 and has since held major command posts such as battalion and regiment commander.

He was promoted to brigadier general in 1984 and worked as presidential secretary for national security affairs.

Pak has been a divisional commander, chief of staff for the First Corps and other posts, mostly for field army units.

'News Analysis' of Changes

SK2405085193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0654 GMT 24 May 93

["News analysis" by Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam took his latest epoch-making step Monday [24 May] when he decided to reshuffle top officers to transform the nation's military into an armed forces "trusted and loved by the people."

In what is being described as another revolutionary purge of the military, Kim announced appointments aimed at cutting the military off from the "regrettable" past practice of meddling in politics.

Kim placed Gen. Yi Pil-sop, one of the main players in the Dec. 12, 1979, "coup-like" incident, on the reserve list and replaced him as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] with Air Force Gen. Yi Yang-ho.

Thus, in one stroke, Kim not only reshuffled the top posts of all three branches but made the unprecedented appointment of an Air Force general as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a job previously monopolized the Army.

Kim is to name new Air Force and Navy chiefs of staff Tuesday. Admiral Kim Chol-u has resigned over troubles caused by an in-house probe into a promotion-for-money scandal.

The reshuffle is to foster balanced development of the three branches of the armed forces and to modernize them.

But Monday's announcement was more significant in that Kim has decisively and surgically excised those responsible for the 1979 revolt that put Chon Tu-hwan, then an Army major general, in Chongwadae and for the bloody military suppression of the Kwangju democratization movement.

In addition to Yi, other active participants in the coup inside the military, Gen. Kim Chin-son and Lt. Gen. An Pyong-ho, are also to be placed on the reserve list Tuesday, less than two months after they were appointed commander and deputy commander, respectively, of the Second Army.

The announcement came as another shock to many, following the lightning purge of March 8 in which Gen. Kim Chin-yong, Army chief of staff, and other top brass were relieved of their duties in an act heralding the end of "the era of military politicians."

In a way, Monday's reshuffle could have been anticipated since Kim defined the 1979 military affair as "a coup-like incident" and said the Kwangju movement had spawned his civilian government.

But long before this, during his presidential campaign, Kim Yong-sam expressed his belief in the political neutrality of the military.

Shortly after taking office, he made it clear his administration was no extension of the so-called Sixth Republic of President No Tae-u, but was the Second Republic in the sense that his was the first civilian government in more than three decades.

Nevertheless, attention has focused on how Kim would manage the military, which had been wielding unrestrained power over the past 30 years and exerted enormous influence not only over three successive administrations but almost every segment of society.

Moreover, Kim has virtually no connection—or "men," as some commentators say—with the military, making it very difficult for him to carry out his campaign pledge to transform it into an armed forces that deserves the trust of the people.

Without the support of the mighty military, it would be well nigh impossible for Kim to become a strong president and lead a strong government, not to mention the proposed creation of a new Korea through reform and reevaluation of regrettable incidents of the past such as the revolt and the Kwangju movement.

But through the two swift and decisive purges of the military, one can easily gauge the degree of Kim's determination and his ability to carry out precise and detailed plans to re-establish the military hierarchy with the president himself at the top, analysts agree.

Explaining the background to Monday's announcement, presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae told reporters that the government had been investigating those responsible for the 1979 revolt.

"The government takes the punitive action against those officers who actively took part in the affair, going beyond the call of duty and revolting against their senior officers," he said.

Yi also pointed out that the appointment of an Air Force chief of staff as JCS chairman was unprecedented and said it was done at the will of the president.

The appointment of Gen. Pak Se-hwan, who is a graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, as commander of the Second Army will also provide a turning point for a new military personnel policy under the civilian government, Yi said.

As a result of Monday's reshuffle, the military was given the opportunity to wipe out the ignominious history of meddling in politics and be reborn as an armed forces with their sole mission being to defend the country.

One Thousand Kwangju Students Stage Demonstration

SK2305042793 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 May 93 p 15

[By correspondent Yi Su-pom from Kwangju]

[Text] Approximately 1,000 university students of the Kwangju-South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils (Namchongnyon) attended a "18 May anti-U.S. day" meeting at an open-air theater at Choson University in Kwangju at 1400 on 22 May. At the meeting, the participants asked the United States to openly apologize for coordinating the Kwangju massacres behind the scenes and to withdraw its troops from the ROK.

The meeting took place reportedly at the same time that the North Pyongan Provincial Students Committee was holding a similar meeting. This was reportedly possible because of communications between the two groups via the Pan-National Alliance of Korean Youth and Students for National Reunification in Berlin. The students stated at the meeting: "Thirteen years ago today, the United States hastily sent an aircraft carrier to Pusan under the pretext of preparing for North Korea's aggression and virtually assisted the military dictatorial regime which perpetrated the Kwangju massacre." They called for disclosing the truth of the Kwangju massacre and open explanations and apologies by the responsible authorities.

After the meeting, the students went to the American Center in Kwangju at around 1830 and staged a fierce demonstration late into the night while chanting "The United States must go home taking responsibility for the Kwangju massacre."

Meanwhile, the Kwangju and South Cholla Provincial Chapter of the National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification (acting Chairman O Chong-yol) sent a letter of protest to the U.S. Embassy that day. The letter asked the United States to "disclose all information on the 18 May Kwangju struggle and to explain U.S. assistance to the new military group [led by Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u]. It asked the United States to disclose all information on approving the ROK military's operation to stop the struggle, and on dispatching an aircraft carrier."

Two Thousand Protest in Seoul

SK2305041593 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 May 93 p 23

[Text] At an open theater at Tanguk University, Hannam-tong, Yongsan District, Seoul, at around 1600 on 22 May, approximately 2,000 students of the National League of College Student Orgnizations (Hanchongnyon) held a "meeting to disclose the truth about the Kwangju massacre and to oppose the United States, a major criminal which aggravates tension on the Korean peninsula."

After the meeting, the students tried to leave the university and go to the rear gate of the Eighth U.S. Army compound, Yongsan-tong, Yongsan District. When the police fired tear gas canisters to stop the students, they staged a fierce demonstration for two hours and wielded iron pipes and other things.

Pak Chol-on Probed for Bribery, Protests Innocence

SK2205014293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 May 93 p 2

[Text] Rep. Pak Chol-on, who was summoned by prosecutors on charges of bribery yesterday afternoon, insisted that he is innocent, saying he has been trapped by a political intrigue. Pak got up early and took a walk around his home in Yangjae-tong, southern Seoul, his daily routine. Meeting with reporters over breakfast, Pak said, "I will reveal the truth after turning myself in at the Prosecutor's Office today."

Pak is suspected of receiving 500 million won from Chong Tok-il, younger brother of Chong Tok-chin, kingpin of the slot machine business now under arrest, at the house of his mistress Hong Song-ae in Pyongchang-tong, northern Seoul, in October 1990. Chong told prosecutors that he gave the money, all in the form of 100,000 won checks, to Pak, right-hand man of former president No Tae-u, asking him to exercise influence over Kim Yong-il, then senior presidential secretary for inspections, to block an impending tax probe into the slot machine business.

Clenching his fist, Pak said, "Prosecutors must have made a mistaken judgment on the basis of false statements of the other side (Chong Tok-il and Hong Song-ae). The truth will be revealed when prosecutors conduct a face-to-face examination with me, Chong and Hong." Pak dismissed as a "farce" Hong's allegation that Chong showed Pak a briefcase filled with bundles of 100,000 won checks at her house. "Was it a heroin deal? Does it smack of sugary play?' said Pak, who was billed a No. 2 strongman during the early phase of the No administration. Pak continued, "According to prosecutors' allegations, I told Chong 'Let's seal our comradeship.' It's like a cheap third-rate novel. I cannot understand how Hong, an intelligent and reasonable person, could have made such an absurd statement."

Asked whether he had influenced presidential inspection secretary Kim into blocking the tax probe into the Chong brothers, Pak said, "though we were classmates at the Seoul National University law school, we maintained a courteous and considerate relationship. I was not in a position to make such a request and Kim is not a person to be swayed by my influence."

He said, "Prosecutors are trying to trap me by identifying the 500 million won Chong allegedly gave me with the money in my bank accounts. It's a false accusation." Pak with a gloomy look said that he was sorry he had not visited ancestral tombs in Taegu due to his troubles recently. He also said he felt regret for neglecting family affairs due to his busy public life.

Arrested by Police

SK2305030393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 May 93 p 3

[Text] Rep. Pak Chol-on of the splinter United People's Party [UPP] was arrested yesterday on charges of taking 500 million won in bribes from an arrested slot machine racketeer. Pak may face more than 10 years in jail under the Law on the Aggravated Punishment of Specific Crimes. Pak told state prosecutors that he did meet with the younger brother of Chong Tok-chin, the reputed "godfather" of the slot machine business, once but they were in no position to exchange a briefcase full of money.

The former prosecutor and protege of ex-president No Tae-u demanded that he be questioned in the presence of Chong Tok-il, who allegedly gave him the money, and Hong Song-ae, a reported witness to the transaction. In spite of Pak's strong statements, the prosecutors said they will request a court warrant for his arrest based on testimonies by the younger Chong and Hong who made her statement during a taped session.

The younger Chong, who presented himself to the prosecution after several rounds of negotiations through his lawyers, has already stated that he personally gave the briefcase containing 500 million won in carefully laundered checks to the lawmaker in 1990. Statements by witnesses have shown that Chong relayed the money to Pak in the hope that he would exercise his influence in reducing the damage of an intensive tax audit then underway on Chong's slot machine operations.

Before presenting himself to the prosecution Friday afternoon, Pak visited UPP leader Kim Tong-kil and insisted that he was innocent, saying "all truth will be revealed in the end." The investigators have been looking into allegation that Pak had taken in tens of millions of own per month from his ownership rights in at least two Seoul hotels but no clear evidence has turned up thus far.

The prosecutors had also been at a loss as to how they should handle charges against the younger Chong but allowed him to return home since there is no obvious evidence of his illegal involvement in related cases.

As for the slot machine kingpin, the prosecutors ran out of the duration for his arrest and indicted him yesterday on charges of fraud, tax evasion. Chong has been under arrest since early May for evading income taxes worth over 3 billion won and for financing criminal underworld activities.

Meanwhile, the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office yesterday arrested Supt. [Superintendent] Sin Kil-yong of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency on charges of taking at least 7 million won from Chong. They also confirmed during interrogation that Sin, who was caught while trying to flee from the country Wednesday, had asked Chong to wire 100,000 U.S. dollars to an account in the United States in early 1990.

At that time, Sin was attached to the office of the senior presidential secretary for inspection and civil petition. The prosecutors are currently looking into the truth concerning a list of some 20 politicians and senior government officials contained in Sin's notebook.

Majority of Pollees Favor Continued Anticorruption Drive

SK2105112193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1102 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—A majority of the South Korean people believe that the on-going anticorruption drive of the Kim Yong-sam government should be carried on further, an opinion survey disclosed on Friday. A poll conducted by the Korea Gallup Co. toward 1,000 South Koreans aged 20 or older on Thursday showed that 54.5 percent of the pollees replied they believe the anti-corruption campaign should continue to be made.

Those who said an emphasis should be placed on the improvement of institutional systems rather than on cracks down on corruption accounted for 39.5 percent. The remaining 6.0 percent said they had nothing to say about it. Of those who favored continuous anticorruption drive, 58.4 percent were males, 67.3 percent were in their fifties or older, and 62.7 percent were either farmers or fishermen.

Asked about the performance of the just ended special National Assembly, 63.2 percent of all the respondents said they thought it did better than before while 25.6 percent said it was worse. Asked if they believe the prosecution probe of Rep. Pak Chol-un in connection with the slot-machine scandal was a political reprisal, only 19.5 percent replied they thought so while 62.3 percent said they believed it wasn't.

Four Hyundai Firms To Break Away From Main Group

SK2305030693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 May 93 p 8

[Text] Hyundai Maritime and Fire Insurance Co. and three other Hyundai companies will break away from the Hyundai Business Group, a group official said yesterday.

The separation of the companies from the groups is in line with the government's policy of reducing the equity ownership of a business group by a family. The Hyundai Business Group is dominated by founder Chong Chu-yong and his family.

Hyundai Electrical Engineering Co. will merge with two other Hyundai companies while Hyundai Electronic Industrial Co. will take over another Hyundai company, the official said.

The group's trading arm, Hyundai Corp., will take over a resource development company, he added.

As a result, the number of the group's companies will drop from 45 at present to 37.

In the next phase of the group restructuring, he said, Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. and four other companies will go public upon obtaining approval from the government.

Many of the five companies' shares have already been sold to employees, he added.

DPRK Envoy: Date for U.S. Talks 'Will Be Known Soon'

SK2205012493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 21 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea had a working-level contact at U.N. Headquarters in New York on Friday [21 May] to discuss problems related to a proposed high-level meeting, the U.S. State Department said.

The department spokesman who made the announcement on the second working-level contact declined to disclose anything on the high-level meeting.

"There was no progress," he said.

Friday's contact, like the first on Monday, was between Charles Kartman, head of the Korea desk in the State Department, and Kim Chong-su, North Korea's deputy ambassador to the United Nations.

A diplomatic source in Washington said he understood that North Korea had notified the U.S. side that its preparations for the high-level meeting were being delayed.

Kim, contacted by telephone, said that he expected the date for a high-level North Korea-U.S. meeting would be fixed soon but he declined to say who would represent his country at the meeting.

"It will be known soon," he said.

The United States is expected to make another person-to-person or telephone contact early next week to agree on the date. As a result, the meeting could be held late next week at the earliest.

It was not immediately known why North Korea is delaying the high-level meeting, although the United States has been pressing it for an early realization of such a conference.

Observers speculate that North Korea is dissatified by the U.S. decision to send Robert Gallucci, assistant secretary of state for military and political affairs, instead of Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff as had been planned.

Also, North Korea seems to be unhappy about the U.S. plan to discuss only the nuclear issue at the meeting, they said. North Korea was understood to be interested in discussing overall means to improve relations between Pyongyang and Washington.

Reportage on Visit of Philippine President Ramos

Arrives 21 May

SK2305063493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0616 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—Philippine President Fidel Ramos arrived in Seoul Sunday [23 May] for a trip combining a state visit and participation in the 26th Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) conference.

Ramos will meet with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam Tuesday to discuss matters of mutual interest. The Philippines is reportedly planning to buy Korean Navy vessels and aircraft, and is expected to settle the details to the purchase during Ramos' visit.

Foreign ministers of the two countries will hold talks prior to the summit and sign an extradition treaty.

Ramos is also to meet with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, arriving Sunday unofficially for the PBEC conference, before leaving Wednesday.

Romulo Requests Economic Aid

SK2405104393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1005 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—The Philippines asked for larger South Korean assistance Monday [24 May] for its economic projects and leniency for some 12,600 Filipino workers illegally employed here.

Philippines' Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo, meeting with his South Korean counterpart Han Sung-chu, requested aid from Seoul's Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Economic Development and Cooperation [Fund] (EDCF), Foreign Ministry officials said after an hour-long meeting.

The fund is to go into electric and subway train construction, expansion of telephone network and building of steam power stations, according to Romulo.

Romulo is in Seoul accompanying his President Fidel Ramos who is in Seoul from Sunday [23 May] to attend the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) general meeting followed by a state visit.

The foreign minister asked for an extension on the June 30 deadline for some 12,600 illegal workers from the Philippines who were told to leave South Korea by June 30, the officials said.

Manila Buys 12 Navy Speedboats

SK2405061793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—South Korea sold 12 small-sized naval speedboats to the Philippines on Monday.

Defense Ministers Kwon Yong-hae and Renato De Villa, who was accompanying Philippine President Fidel Ramos, signed the transfer contract in Seoul.

The 70-ton Korean-made vessels are used for coastal security and are to be replaced by new-type speedboats under a naval modernization development plan, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

Ramos Meets With Mahathir on Sabah, Spratlys

HK2405110493 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 24 May 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] [Philippine] President Fidel V. Ramos is now in South Korea and is preparing for the formal beginning of his state visit in the progressive republic tomorrow. Although his state visit has not yet formally started, the schedule of the president and his party has already been extremely full. President Ramos met with the secretary general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and appeared before the Pacific Basin Economic Council leaders to seek increased support to ensure the success of the Philippines 2000 economic program.

This afternoon, the president met with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed to draw up a memorandum of understanding which would improve relations between the two countries. Under the agreement, to be signed in July, the two countries will sit down and resolve the irritants in their relationship, particularly the ownership of Sabah and the Spratly Islands and the welfare of Filipino workers in Malaysia.

President Kim Meets With Malaysian Prime Minister

SK2405104793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1029 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Monday [24 May] met visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed at Chongwadae to exchange opinions on regional situations and discuss ways to further promote bilateral friendly and cooperative relations.

Chongwadae spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said President Kim and Premier Mahathir shared the view that North Korea's early return to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty would be indispensable to regional security.

Prime Minister Mahathir proposed that the two countries set up a joint-venture automobile plant in his country, and President Kim said he would positively examine it.

President Kim expressed his willingness to extend continuous support to Malaysia's "Eastern policy," and suggested that the Malaysian prime minister will have an interest in the two countries' cooperation in the area of construction.

Prime Minister Mahathir invited President Kim to visit Malaysia at an appropriate time, and President Kim accepted the invitation, saying he would study the time of a visit at a later date, according to the spokesman.

GATT Director Urges Rice Market Opening

SK2205064093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0503 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (YONHAP)—The top Uruguay Round negotiator urged South Korea to accept tariffication without exception and open its rice market Saturday, but said the market opening could be slow and gradual. Arthur Dunkel, director-general to General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), reminded Korean foreign minister Han Sung-chu that Seoul is one of the biggest beneficiaries of free trade.

Korea had to return the benefits and contribute to successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, mainly by accepting the principle of tariffication without exception, Dunkel was quoted as saying. Han replied that Korea was unique and must be exempt from the rule on rice market opening, and Dunkel said South Korea must adhere to the principle but need not open at a fast pace.

The important thing was that Korea allow minimum market access, Dunkel told Han. Korea's rice is about five times higher than the international price. If the market were opened, it would mean starting with a 500-percent import tariff and gradually lowering it over 10 years.

On overall GATT matters, Dunkel predicted that China would become a member earlier than expected. Negotiations were under way to determine whether a socialist economy like China's fitted under GATT regulations and under what conditions Beijing would join the global trade body, Dunkel said.

Beef Talks With Australia, NZ End in 'Discord'

SK2205031693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea's beef talks with Australia and New Zealand [NZ] have ended in discord over import quotas after 1993, import liberalization and improvement of the simultaneous buy and sell tender system, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Saturday. In meetings with Australian officials on May 17-18 and with New Zealand officials on May 20-21, Korea was pressed to open its beef market fully by July 1997 and to expand its quotas annually after 1993 based on a 1992 volume of 132,000 tons.

The two countries asked that their beef be sold at wholesale markets and the amount expanded. Chief Korean delegate Kim Tong-tae, director general of the Livestock Bureau, said beef consumption had fallen sharply and so the government had decided to limit imports to protect the nation's farmers. Korea and the United States narrowed their differences in beef talks in April, but conflicts arose in drawing up documents and the talks failed.

Construction Bank of China To Open Seoul Office

SK2105125593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1128 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—One more Chinese bank is opening its office in Seoul shortly. Presently the Bank of China is the sole Chinese bank with an office here. A Chinese official said here on Friday that the People's Construction Bank of China will open its representative's office in Seoul next week. He said it would be the third overseas office of the People's Construction Bank after those in London and Tokyo. The office will be located at the Ankuk Fire Insurance Co. building along Eulji-ro, Seoul.

Zhou Daojiong, president of the People's Construction Bank, will be visiting Seoul on May 23-30 to attend the office's opening ceremony slated for next Tuesday evening. Zhou is expected to meet Korean monetary and business officials during his stay here, the official said.

The People's Construction Bank of China has 270,000 officials and employees in its head office, 41 branches, 4,000 sub-branches and 231 subsidiary companies. Its total assets amounted to 150 billion U.S. dollars as of the end of last year.

PRC Founds Research Center for Korean Affairs

SK2205104493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1010 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Beijing, May 22 (YONHAP)—China has recently taken up academic interest in South Korea in the wake of fast-growing bilateral relations since the two countries normalized ties last August.

Its interest took form with Thursday's [20 May] launching of a research center for Korean affairs by the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS).

The Korean center, one of seven research centers of the state-run institute, will comprise Korean and Chinese scholars jointly studying politics, economy, society, and culture of the Korean peninsula and holding seminars and symposiums.

It plans to publish a quarterly magazine, titled "KOREA OF TODAY."

CASS Vice President Ru Xin was designated as the first director of the Korean center, reflecting Beijing's special interest in Korea, an institute official noted.

"Through such joint researches on society and culture as well as the economy, China and Korea can regain their cultural sympathy that has been cut for some time," he said.

Beijing University expanded its Korean institute last month and is scheduled to hold a seminar on Korean affairs and publish a paper on them.

The Liaoning Provincial Government, which sent a 530-member delegation to Korea last December, will launch a China-Korea association for economic and cultural exchanges on May 31 led by president of Liaoning University.

Liaoning officials say they expect the association, comprised of government officials, businessmen, scholars, and influential ethnic Koreans, will much contribute to future Korea-Liaoning relations.

Some 100 Korean companies are currently doing business in the northeastern industrial province, where around 20,000 ethnic Koreans live.

Seoul, Mexico Sign Agreement on Double Taxation

SK2205062493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0449 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Mexico have initialed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday. The agreement, signed in Mexico City, covers taxation regulations between home and host nations on corporate and interest income.

The pact, officials explained, will hopefully limit possible disadvantages to outside countries created by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Benefits of the agreement are aimed at encouraging Korean businesses to make investment in the NAFTA party and make new trade inroads to the United States, they said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Confident of UN Peacekeepers' Safety

BK2105125693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0654 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 21 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Defence Minister Najib Razak is confident that Malaysian troops serving under the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] will not be the target of Khmer Rouge attacks.

I dare say that our troops will not be the target of the attacks because they have the strong support of all parties in the area where they are stationed, he said Friday.

He was commenting on reports that the UN peacekeepers had authorised other Cambodian factions to launch attacks to protect polling stations following Khmer Rouge threats to disrupt Sunday's national polls.

He said the Khmer Rouge would also have to contend with the 130,000-strong Cambodian People's Armed Forces (KPAF) which would serve as a buffer between them and the UN peacekeepers.

PRC Defense Minister Arrives 24 May

BK2405094493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0906 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 24 (OANA/BERNAMA)—China's Defence Minister Gen Chi Haotian arrived here Monday for an eight-day official visit.

Accompanied by four senior military officials, he was met on arrival at the airport by the secretary-general of the Defence Ministry Kamaruzzaman Shariff.

Gen Chi said in a statement later that he was returning his Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak's visit to China last year.

Najib's visit had opened a new era in relations between the Armed Forces of both countries and he looked forward to exchanging views on ways to strengthen them, said Gen Chi.

He said his government and the Chinese Armed Forces attached great importance to the friendly relations between China and Malaysia.

I believe the development of these relations not only accords with the common aspiration and interests of the two peoples but also contribute to the peace and stability of the region and Asia, he said.

Deputy Premier Leaves for France, Scandinavia

BK2305070493 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0600 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba left Kuala Lumpur last night for a six-day visit to France and Scandinavia. He told newsmen before departure that he would meet French and Scandinavian investors to inform them of business opportunities in Malaysia. France and Scandinavia are not among the top (?having) business in Malaysia. While in France, Mr. Ghafar will meet President Francois Mitterrand. Their discussions will include the Bosnian, Cambodian, and Palestinian issues. Deputy prime minister said he would invite Mr. Mitterrand and other French leaders to visit Malaysia.

Commentary Views Importance of Growth Triangles

BK2105125993 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 21 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Growth triangles, GT's, represent subregional economic zones that can cut across national boundaries. They are now seen as an instrument that can promote true economic integration among ASEAN countries. So far, intra-ASEAN industrial cooperation has been painfully slow. The major obstacle is that it is hard to come up with industrial projects in which all six ASEAN countries could willingly participate. The new interest in GT's is largely due to the successful experimentation involving Singapore-Johor-Batam Triangle. That led to the emergence of far-(?flung) subregions.

The vast industrial [word indistinct] cooperation has also been extended to tourism, construction, and the services sector. (?Limiting) the number of participants to just three has rendered economic integration relatively easier. It allows any three like-minded members to cooperate at a faster rate. As a result, the fourth ASEAN summit in Singapore has endorsed the GT concept as a vehicle to promote closer economic cooperation. Now, other GT concepts are being mooted—the latest being northern Sumatera, southern Thailand and the northern states of peninsular Malaysia. Within this area, the Penang-Medan-Phuket Triangle is being actively pursued. Efforts are also geared towards the GT involving Sandakan in Sabah, Davao in the Philippines and Manado in Indonesia's Sulawesi island. Such forms of cooperation should be encouraged for they would complement the ASEAN Free Trade Area in boosting regional economic linkages. Besides this, there are fears the world is splitting into trade blocs and that protectionism is on the rise. To combat this, GT's would be an exercise in improving the competitiveness of the products of the participating countries.

Of course, an open multilateral trading system is still best for the world. But current developments do not point to such possibility. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations had reached a stalemate and no progress is in sight. In certain environment, regional trade cooperation in East Asia, such as the GTs, should be promoted. It is imperative, therefore, that the East Asian countries to find grounds for cooperation for mutual benefit and to ensure that their goods are competitive.

Malaysia is a strong supporter of the development of GT's. This is in line with its call for greater economic linkages among countries in the region. It has demonstrated this commitment by ensuring that decisions are made fast and red tape reduced to the minimum. No doubt GT's have taken off the ground. But how much it can further achieve depends greatly on the political will of the participating countries. Ultimately, it can lead to larger areas of economic integration in the long run. In the process, it can help sustain the region's dynamism in the years ahead.

Singapore

UK's Rifkind: Defense Arrangements 'Relevant'

BK2205102193 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 93 p 25

[Text] The United Kingdom considers the Five-Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) relevant and useful as a way of maintaining security and stability in the region.

The visiting British secretary of state for defence, Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, said this yesterday during a press conference after discussions with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Defence Minister Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, and Foreign Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng.

On the FPDA, Mr. Rifkind said: "Malaysian and Singaporean officials both indicated that they still believe the FPDA is an important asset—something they wish to see continued."

The FPDA signed in 1971 by Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, and Britain, provides for multilateral consultation in the event of an external threat to Singapore and Malaysia.

He added that although some of the old problems have been resolved, "it is useful to have areas of stability and certainty" in the light of changes in the global scene over the last few years.

Mr. Rifkind is making his first visit to Southeast Asia as secretary of state for defence.

He is on a two-day visit and has been to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.

The Defence Ministry here said that his visit is a reflection of the enduring warm and close ties between the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Mr. Rifkind said that his discussions with Singapore leaders covered a range of international issues, including developments in China and Hong Kong, the situation in Bosnia, relations with ASEAN members, and investment opportunities in Singapore.

On Brunei's participation in the FPDA, an issue that has been raised in the past, Mr. Rifkind said that it was essentially a matter to be decided by countries in the region itself.

Turning to Bosnia, he said that the international community has not contemplated and is not proposing the deployment of ground forces in a combat role.

He said: "That is seen as unrealistic and undesirable by all countries concerned."

He added that if a proper cease-fire was established, it was possible that the United Nations Security Council could send in a peacekeeping, but not a peace-making force to Bosnia.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Urges Round-the-Clock Ballot Box Watch

BK2105134693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 21 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government has called on the United Nations to allow political parties competing in next week's Cambodian elections to watch ballot boxes around-the-clock, a spokesman said Friday.

Prime Minister Hun Sen made the call during a meeting with Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia.

"It's a question of the credibility and integrity of the electoral process," said government spokesman Uch Kim-An.

The idea was designed to avoid the election results being challenged after they are announced, he said.

Asked whether the Phnom Penh government would withdraw from the U.N.-organised polls, which begin Sunday and continue for six days, if the request were refused, Uch Kim-An said: "Let's not over-dramatise."

"It's just a question of detail, discussions are continuing to settle it," he added.

According to arrangements devised by the United Nations Provisional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the ballot boxes will be guarded in a restricted zone only by UNTAC forces overnight.

Diplomatic sources said UNTAC intended to stick by its rules but was ready to allow party representatives to remain nearby.

Behrooz Sadry, Akjashi's deputy, said the Phnom Penh government have "been insisting since some time they want to ensure the security of the ballot boxes."

"They have fears some other parties want to tamper with them," he said, adding that UNTAC hoped to reach a decision on the question by the end of the day.

Hun Sen 'Satisfied' With UN's Poll Protection

BK2105135293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 21 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Friday he was satisfied with the United Nations' arrangements for polling station protection during the May 23-28 election.

"We are satisfied with the explanations given by (U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia chief Yasushi Akashi) on technical measures and polling station security," the premier said after a meeting with the U.N. official. He gave no other details.

The meeting also included President Chea Sim and Defense Minister Tie Banh.

Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party had demanded that representatives from all parties participating in the election, not just UNTAC, be allowed to contribute to security at the voting sites, particularly at night.

He added that his party's demand was not a threat to pull out of the election if the issue was not resolved but was aimed at ensuring that the results could not be contested.

Akashi Heads 20 May SNC Meeting

BK2205065693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Mr. Yasushi Akashi, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] chief, presided over a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia at UNTAC headquarters on 20 May. A number of diplomats to Cambodia were also present.

At the meeting, Mr. Akashi said: I can say that in general the election campaign has been conducted satisfactorily. But the UNTAC chief pointed out that violence in the elections has continued to occur with remarkable intensity. UNTAC's mandate as peacekeepers, he added, is limited to self defense, but UNTAC will take a clear stance to use its right to protect its mission. He further said that this election is the freest and the most correct in Cambodia's recent history, and the freest and the most correct in the region.

The SNC meeting concluded after Mr. Akashi wished success to the 20 political parties competing in the balloting.

Khmer Rouge Spokesman Holds News Conference

BK2105142193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] During a news conference held at Phnum Malai stronghold, Mak Ben, spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge, cited reports from the Khmer Rouge's Phnom Penh-based sources as saying that the United States and its allies are planning to provide weapons and war equipment for the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh puppet government for suppressing the resistance factions, including the Khmer Rouge, before and after the general election.

The Khmer Rouge said that the U.S. weaponary assistance will provide a golden opportunity for Vietnam to swallow up Cambodia as it has done with Laos. Hence, Vietnam's dream to turn the region into the Federation of Indochinese States will be materialized.

As for Khmer Rouge refusal to participate in the election, Mak Ben said that the UNTAC-[UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] organized election is only a ploy to legalize Vietnamese rule in Cambodia, adding that the Cambodian people inside and outside Cambodia oppose the poll. Therefore, fighting will continue in Cambodia. He also noted that the over 1,900 polling stations boasted by UNTAC as being set up nationwide exist only on paper. He said that 90 to 93 percent of the border areas in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Prey Veng, and Banteay Meanchey Provinces have no polling stations. Meanwhile, some 50 to 60 percent of the areas in Kompong Cham, Kampot, Komphong Chhnang, and Kompong Speu have no polling booths. The number of polling stations is only UNTAC propaganda.

Khieu Samphan Vows To Oppose UNTAC Election

BK2205014493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 May 93

[Statement by Khieu Samphan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to all compatriots, both inside and outside the country and in Phnom Penh: The Vietnamese aggressors, their puppets and lackeys, and allies inside and outside UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], are forcing our people in the zones temporarily controlled by the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys to vote to kill themselves, their nation, their people, and their race, and to transform our Cambodia into a second Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam].

This election is being held in gross violation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. The Paris agreement clearly states that the election is the fifth step in the agreement's implementation. The first step requires UNTAC to verify that Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia. In the second step, UNTAC should give the Supreme National Council [SNC], headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, the role of the legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period. The third step requires UNTAC to cooperate with the SNC to take over five major ministries—the ministries of national defense, security, foreign affairs, finance, and information. In the fourth step, UNTAC must canton 100 percent of the armies and weapons of the four Cambodian parties and then demobilize 70 percent of the four parties' troops with 30 percent remaining in cantonments.

The election is the fifth step. However, UNTAC has not implemented the first, second, third, or fourth steps. First, UNTAC has not verified that the Vietnamese aggressor forces have all been withdrawn from Cambodia. Second, UNTAC has not given a role to the SNC as the legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period; UNTAC has not given any role whatsoever to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman. Third, UNTAC has not allowed the SNC to cooperate with UNTAC to control the five major ministries at all. Fourth, because UNTAC has not implemented the first, second, and third steps, the fourth step also cannot be implemented. That is why it was impossible to canton and demobilize the armies of the four Cambodian parties.

In brief, UNTAC has not implemented the first part of the Paris agreement on preparing the transitional period. Therefore, there is no neutral political atmosphere whatsoever. Old and new Vietnamese and Vietnam's puppets and lackeys remain the masters in zones temporarily under their control. UNTAC has not dared to make any move. The Vietnamese and their puppets and lackeys are the ones doing everything they want. Therefore, this election is in the iron grip and control of the Vietnamese aggressors, who have maintained their open and secret aggressor forces all over Cambodia. This election is not free, democratic, or fair. This election is for legitimizing the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam and its puppets and lackeys. This would give Vietnam an opportunity to further bring its forces to Cambodia at will.

Now the Vietnamese aggressor force in Cambodia is nearly 3- million-strong. After UNTAC's election legitimizing the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam and its puppets and lackeys, Vietnam will immediately bring in 1, 2 million, up to 5 million Vietnamese to Cambodia. Cambodia will immediately become a Vietnamese province. The Vietnamese in Cambodia and those flowing into the country would all become legal because UNTAC has already legitimized the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam and its puppets and lackeys.

Our nation and people oppose the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys; oppose UNTAC; and oppose the allies inside and outside UNTAC for violating and trampling upon the Paris agreement, colluding with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys, propping up the regime which is Vietnam's puppet and lackey, discarding the resistance forces, and pushing small parties into the regime, Vietnam's puppet and lackey.

The Cambodian nation and people have successively opposed this UNTAC election which destroys the Cambodian nation, people, and race. In fact, UNTAC cannot organize this election because our entire nation and people oppose it. However, those allies need to show that an election is held in this or that place in zones temporarily under the control of the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets, particularly in a number of cities and provinces, so as to publicize this on television and dupe the world public.

Realizing that this means the death of the nation, can our people vote to kill themselves and the nation? Our people absolutely will not kill their nation and themselves. This is the final decision of our people in the zones temporarily under the control of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys. As for our people in the zones administered by the resistance forces and in the majority of rural areas, they will not go to vote. They will not kill the nation and themselves to serve the stinking theatrical farce of UNTAC and allies inside and outside UNTAC.

Prince Sihanouk Arrives in Phnom Penh 22 May

BK2205071893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 22 (AFP)—Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived in Phnom Penh from Beijing Saturday on the eve of U.N.-sponsored elections. The prince, who heads the Supreme National Council (SNC) grouping the four main Cambodian factions, has said that to demonstrate his neutrality he will not cast a ballot in the May 23-28 election. Sihanouk will remain in Cambodia during the post-election period in which he is expected to play a central role.

The 70-year-old prince has a residence in the Chinese capital, where he has been receiving medical treatment for several months.

Akashi Welcomes Sihanouk at Airport

BK2205133193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and the princess consort safely arrived in Phnom Penh at 1245 on 22 May. His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], their excellencies ambassadors and representatives of various embassies in Cambodia, and other UNTAC officials were on hand to welcome the prince and princess at Pochentong Airport.

Ranariddh: 'No Part' in New Government for KR

BK2305102293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 23 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge will have no part in the new Cambodian government, as they have rejected the electoral process, Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Sunday, the first day of polls here.

After voting at a local polling station, the head of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party said the Marxist group would "not have any representative in the newly elected constituent assembly. And so I think the new government will be formed with people who are in the electoral process."

The Khmer Rouge pulled out of the peace process in June and have boycotted the elections, which are set to continue until Friday [28 May].

But Ranariddh said it would be up to his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, to talk with the Khmer Rouge and bring them back into the political fold, adding that the radical faction "should not feel they are excluded from the national community."

Despite earlier fears that the Khmer Rouge would step up violence to disrupt voting, the prince said such attacks would be "against the will of the Cambodian people."

United Nations peacekeepers who are supervising the polling had feared widespread violence, but only one comparatively minor incident had been reported by late Sunday.

Ranariddh said his party should garner 60 percent of the votes, and said his father was "the only one Cambodian leader who could really achieve real national reconciliation among the Cambodian people.

"If we win the election my father will be given full state powers... to really run the country and establish real peace in Cambodia, he said.

Sihanouk, who is already considered by all factions as Cambodia's head of state, has proposed forming a government of national reconciliation after the elections which would include the Khmer Rouge.

KR Organize Anti-Election Demonstration 22 May

BK2205083693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 22 (AFP)—Cambodia's radical Khmer Rouge, opposed to the U.N.-sponsored voting scheduled to begin Sunday [23 May], organized an anti-election demonstration of 400 people in Cambodia's northwest resistance zone, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday.

The midday demonstration on Friday in Thmar Puok lasted about two hours.

The Khmer Rouge organizers prepared banners protesting against the election, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said without saying what was written on them.

"They apparently had enticed the villagers to come from Thmar Puok and the surrounding area promising them that Prince (Norodom) Sihanouk and Prince Ranariddh would be there," Falt said. "The demonstrators presented a petition that asked for a national conference to be convened. They said that they were 'Cambodians loving real peace and real independence.'"

No violent incidents were reported during the demonstration.

A similar, smaller demonstration was organized two weeks ago when the envoys from Australia and the United States in Phnom Penh went to meet with the Khmer Rouge commander to seek assurances that the election would not be disrupted in the zone.

The Khmer Rouge have hung posters on trees around Thmar Puok telling people they risk being killed by rockets and grenades on election day if they vote, according to U.N. officials.

Khmer Rouge Suspected in Pre-Election Violence

2 Chinese Peacekeepers Killed

BK2205090893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 22 May 93

[by Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Skun, Cambodia, May 22 (AFP)—Two Chinese peacekeepers were killed and three wounded when an explosion ripped through their barracks overnight during an attack by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas on a nearby Cambodian police post, U.N. military officials said Saturday.

The explosion may have been caused by a B-40 rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) that overshot the police post and sailed though a window of the barracks, less than 100 meters (yards) away, according to the Phnom Penh government policemen who fought off the attack.

U.N. military officials said, however, that the cause of the blast that sprayed shrapnel through the barracks of the Chinese engineering company was still under investigation.

Earlier, China's official Xinhua news agency quoted camp sources as saying that two soldiers were killed and four injured when shells landed in the campsite during fighting that erupted late Friday [21 May] and continued into the small hours of Saturday.

Two Phnom Penh policemen were wounded by shrapnel during the 20-minute attack on their post shortly before midnight at this strategic crossroads in Kompong Cham province 60 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of Phnom Penh.

"I think the Khmer Rouge were trying to hit our post, because we're the first line of defense, but they missed and hit the Chinese," said police officer Ni Rath, holding up a Chinese-made B-40 that he said was dropped by the fleeing guerrillas.

China has been the leading supplier of arms to the radical Khmer Rouge faction, which is boycotting the U.N. organized elections due to start Sunday.

The engineers were the first Chinese peacekeepers killed in Cambodia, although on May 5 suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas shelled the engineering battalion's headquarters in neighboring Kompong Thom, drawing return fire and condemnation from Beijing.

Comrades of the slain Chinese engineers sat silently outside their wooden barracks, which showed no signs of damage from the outside. The Chinese commander barred visitors from entering Saturday.

Across the road at the police station, Captain El Nan said 15 guerrillas had attacked with B-40s and AK-47 assault rifles from the swampy area to the south, where U.N. military observers say two Khmer Rouge regiments—meaning anywhere from 60 to 250 men—are based.

"Of course they were Khmer Rouge. They were only 50 meters (yards) away, and we could see them by the flash when they fired their weapons," he said.

Though normally no more than 30 policemen are based at the post, all approximately 100 from the district had been assembled at Skun on the night of the attack to await redeployment to provide security during election week, El Nan said.

They returned fire with their own AK-47s and Soviet-made RPG-7s.

"I don't know if the Khmer Rouge were surprised to find us here, but they definitely found us here," said Non Nath.

He pointed out the spot from which he said the Khmer Rouge fired about six B-40s. From there, an RPG would have to travel about 250 metres (yards)—close to its maximum range—to hit the U.N. barracks that lie out of sight behind the police station.

The Khmer Rouge attacked several Phnom Penh police and army posts in Kompong Cham during the first week in May, but the province has been relatively quiet since Phnom Penh troops took up "blocking positions" between them and strategic points during the second week of the month, U.N. observers in Kampong Cham said.

"Last night we drove them off, but tomorrow all these men will be redeployed to protect the elections," said Police Captain El Kir.

"If the Khmer Rouge attack then, they could overrun Skun," which lies at the strategic intersection of Routes 6 and 12, he said.

PDK Spokesman 'Rejects' Allegation

BK2305013693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 May GMT 22 May 93

["Rejection" issued by PDK spokesman on 22 May—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. There have been reports by foreign radios hinting that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] attacked UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces in Skun, Kompong Cham Province, killing two of UNTAC's Chinese personnel.

2. The spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] categorically rejects this accusation, made with political ill will.

3. In the past as in the present, the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets and lackeys have created incidents in order to have the opportunity to attack UNTAC personnel, then collude with bad elements to put the blame on Democratic Kampuchea [DK].

4. The DK and the NADK have no policy, goal, or reason to touch Chinese nationals within UNTAC. The overwhelming majority of UNTAC personnel, particularly those from Third World countries, including the Chinese, want the Paris agreement implemented and want Cambodia to have peace and national reconciliation, which will benefit peace, stability, and development in the region.

5. The Cambodian nation and people, as well as peace- and justice-loving countries the world over have clearly realized who is good and who is bad. It has been clearly realized that the Cambodian nation and people, the Cambodian national resistance forces, and the PDK are not the ones destroying peace and are not the ones refusing to implement the Paris agreement. It is the Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets and lackeys, and allies inside and outside UNTAC who are the ones destroying peace, the Paris agreement, and Cambodia's sovereignty. They have organized elections to destroy the Cambodian nation and people, to legitimize Vietnam's puppet regime, and to legitimize the annexation of Cambodia by Vietnam. They have used every maneuver—military, political, and diplomatic—to create incidents and to attack the resistance forces, particularly the DK, with the aim of smashing the latter.

6. The Cambodian nation and people, the Cambodian national resistance forces, and the PDK continue to hold aloft the banner of great national union and to pool their forces, with the assistance and support of the people and

peace- and justice-loving countries the world over, to struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors, territorial expansionists, and exterminators of the Cambodian race, to prevent Cambodia from dying like Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam] so that Cambodia can exist with peace and independence, with territorial integrity, and with national reconciliation in accordance with the national reconciliation plan of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council.

SOC Sends Message to Families of Dead

BK2405060993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] On 22 May, the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s leadership sent a condolences message to His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, head of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the PRC Government, and the families of two Chinese engineering personnel. The message noted:

Your Excellency: Through the daily military news communique, we have learned about the unpleasant report that at (?0930) last night, 15 Khmer Rouge soldiers from 560th Division grossly launched an attack on UNTAC's Chinese engineering unit in Cheung Prey District of Kompong Cham Province, killing two and seriously wounding some others.

Through this irresponsible, abominable act, the Khmer Rouge have once again displayed to the world their stand in doing anything possible to obstruct the elections, thus hindering the process toward peace and stability in Cambodia.

Your Excellency, through this message:

1. On behalf of the high-level SOC leaders and the entire Cambodian nation, we would like to express our deepest condolences to UNTAC, PRC Government, and the bereaved families of the two Chinese engineers who sacrificed their lives in the cause of peace.

2. We would like to express sincere wishes for quick recovery to the wounded Chinese officials.

Also on this occasion, we strongly condemn the Khmer rouge for their arrogant and barbarous acts.

Your Excellency, please accept our lofty commendation for all the efforts you have made for Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

Checkpoint Suffers 'Fierce Attack' 17 May

BK2205092993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The control post of Toek Thla, six km northwest of the Banteay Meanchey provincial capital, came under a fierce attack on the night of 17 May. It is a very important checkpoint for controlling the movement of goods from Cambodia's northwestern border.

The onslaught, which lasted for 25 minutes from 0050 to 0115, was launched by a group of 10 to 25 armed men suspected to be Khmer Rouge elements. It was reported that the enemies conducted a two-pronged raid, one from the south and the other from the west, on the checkpoint which is located on National Route 5. They sprayed bullets with machine guns and fired rockets on the 16 soldiers and policemen manning the post. While our policemen counterattacked with AK assault rifles, the enemy soldiers fired three (SKS grenades) and two B-type rockets at us, setting ablaze the office buildings of the Customs officers in the area. As a result, a worker and five Customs officers were wounded by enemy rocket fire. The enemies seized from the police forces six firearms, two B-type rocket launchers, three AK rifles, a K-50 gun, two sets of field radios, and some uniforms. They also destroyed two new police motorbikes and two Customs office buildings and damaged a police barracks.

In the meantime, another group of armed men robbed the villagers at Sala Dei in Mongkol Borei District. No casualties have yet been reported. However, according to the local residents, the armed criminals tortured innocent civilians and took their property.

Towns Attacked in Kampot 19 May

BK2305052693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] On 19 May in Kampot Province, about 100 Khmer Rouge soldiers led by (Mao, Pet), and (Phat) launched attacks against the Spean Krau area along National Route 3, that is the Phnum Tvea pass, and also (?Lbaeuk) commune. This attack killed a soldier and wounded four others; a policeman and a villager were also wounded. At the moment, Khmer Rouge troops are regroupng at Vat Koy monastery in an attempt to seize the area west of Chhuk District.

Train Attacked in Kampot 22 May

BK2205133293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 22 (AFP)—Suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas blew up and robbed the only remaining train in Cambodia on Saturday, killing three civilians and injuring three more on the eve of U.N. elections, a U.N. spokesman said.

The train, which connects the seaport of Sihanoukville with the capital, was hit at midday about 12 kilometers (seven miles) after passing the southern city of Kampot, spokesman Eric Falt said.

The train was "extensively damaged by an explosive device," then ambushed with automatic weapons and looted, he said.

Three civilians were believed killed and another three wounded, he said.

It was not immediately clear who attacked the train, but Khmer Rouge guerrillas are known to operate in the area and have recently stepped up their activities in Kampot province.

The attack wiped out the last remaining train line in Cambodia. A Khmer Rouge attack in Battambang on the train from the capital to the northwest was ambushed three weeks ago, killing 13 and injuring more than 70.

The Khmer Rouge have been systematically targetting the government's transportation lines and major highways within the last month and has succeeded in cutting off National Route 3 to Kampot, National Route 6 to Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom, National Route 12 to the Thai border from Kompong Thom and the two railroad tracks.

Kompong Cham Towns Attacked 22 May

BK2205134893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] A great many Khmer Rouge [KR] troops were recently sent to Kompong Cham Province. At present, those KR soldiers are laying ambushes and launching attacks on major townships along National Routes 6 and 7 and Roads 75, 21, 24, 34, and 15 to cause insecurity and create turmoil among the population during the elections.

UNTAC: 200 Murdered in Prepoll Violence

BK2305121193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 23 (AFP)—The head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) human rights component said Sunday that 200 people were murdered in political violence in the run-up to this week's election.

He warned that if the new government formed out of the polls does not have a better record, it risks losing international political and financial support.

At least 131 of those deaths, along with 250 injuries and 53 abductions, were committed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who oppose the election, UNTAC human rights director Dennis McNamara told a press conference.

He also said the human rights situation, although "serious," is only one criterion for establishing whether an election is free and fair.

"In drawing attention to the current situation, we are also urging all parties to curb and to end political violence and all other human rights violations in the interests of a future peaceful Cambodia," he said.

"There is absolutely no doubt that if such actions continue, they will have a major impact on the economic and poltical support which the new Cambodian government will receive," he said.

Since March, 200 people have been killed, 338 people injured and 114 abducted in incidents "including attacks on political opposition parties, attacks on civilians including persons of Vietnamese origin and attacks on UNTAC, McNamara said.

The figures do not include arbitrary executions and non-politically related killings, he said.

Of those, 15 deaths and nine injuries were attributed to the government or its Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF), UNTAC figures showed.

"There have also been numerous and almost systematic attacks on political party offices," 20 of which were carried out by government or CPAF offcials, McNamara said.

"The SOC (State of Cambodia) has made minimal efforts to apprehend those responsible for attacks since UNTAC has been in Cambodia," he said, using the official name of the government. "At present there is no court in Cambodia competent to try cases of political violence.

UNTAC Chief: Polls To Proceed Despite Attacks

OW2205093593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 22 May 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 22 KYODO—The chief of the United Nations peacekeepers in Cambodia vowed confidence Saturday to hold elections under "minimum acceptable" conditions despite a worsened political climate.

"Conditions have somewhat worsened," said Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), referring to reports of fresh violence overnight.

"But we feel there is deep and widespread aspirations among the Cambodians for a new democracy in which they can be the masters of their own country," he told a news conference on the eve of the country's first free elections in more than two decades.

Akashi acknowledged UNTAC may have to exempt a few provincial districts from the six-day polls due to security threats despite the 1991 Paris peace accord that calls for a neutral political environment for free and fair elections.

The radical Khmer Rouge rebel group has vowed to disrupt the elections with violence, insisting the elections will only serve to legitimize the Phnom Penh government.

"But I am confident we have the minimum acceptable conditions for free and fair elections, not the maximum, far from it," Akashi said, adding that he is "fairly certain" the UN-organized polls will cover about 80 percent of Cambodian territory.

He said the elections will take place at 1,430 fixed and mobile polling stations, down from the initially targeted 1,800.

Akashi voiced hope some 80 percent of the 4.76 million registered voters will go to the polls.

Akashi spoke as fresh fatalities were reported overnight, including the first victims among a Chinese component of the 22,000-strong UNTAC.

Two members of the Chinese engineering battalion were killed and three wounded in an explosion at their base in the southeastern province of Kompong Cham, an UNTAC spokesman said.

In the northwestern province of Kratie, a member of the royalist FUNCINPEC party led by Prince Norodom Ranarit, son of Cambodian head of state Norodom Sihanouk, was killed in suspected political violence, the spokesman said. A local policeman was killed in a separate incident in the same province.

A dozen UNTAC personnel have been killed so far in hostile attacks, most of them blamed on the Khmer Rouge.

Akashi said the radical communist group's army has been strengthened 50 percent, from 10,000 to 15,000, and is now operating in units of 200 to 400 compared with 15 to 30 a year ago.

UNTAC's 18-month mandate will end in late August or early September after a new government is elected in the polls, he said.

He urged the international community to continue assisting Cambodia after the election, saying "there should be no illusion" about prospects of the country's economic and social takeoff.

The success of the UNTAC mission, the costliest in UN history, should be measured not only by quantitative aspects such as voter turnout, but qualitative ones like the instillation of respect for human rights, Akashi said.

The mission has so far cost 1.5 billion dollars, he said.

Phnom Penh Officials Fined for Poll Violation

BK2205130293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 22 (AFP)—The United Nations has fined two top Phnom Penh government officials, one of them a son of senior Cambodian statesman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, for violation of Cambodia's U.N. electoral law, a U.N. spokesman said here Saturday.

Fined 5,000 U.S. dollars are Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, one of the Phnom Penh government's vice premiers, and Kim Bo, the governor of the southern port of Sihanoukville, Eric Falt said.

The two broke the U.N. electoral law by holding a rally in violation of U.N. orders.

Prince Chakkrapong and Kim Bo "knowingly and intentionally" refused to observe instructions from U.N. officials in Sihanoukville on May 13, Falt said.

The two were forbidden to hold a rally at the same time as the opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party, which had already received prior permission, and went ahead anyway even after U.N. officials told them not to.

If they do not pay their fines before Tuesday, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) can take further measures, such as striking them from the list of eligible voters—which would make them forfeit their right to be candidates.

Prince Chakkrapong is the number two candidate for the national assembly from Kompong Cham province and Kim Bo is the number one candidate running from his home town.

Polls Open for National Assembly Elections 23 May

BK2305012893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0119 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 23 (AFP)—Cambodians began going to the polls under a rainy sky Sunday in the first free election here in decades that is the culmination of an 18-month U.N. peacekeeping operation.

Some 4.7 million voters of the country's population of nine million registered to vote in the election, but recent attacks by the Khmer Rouge have made voters in some areas concerned about the safety of going to the polls.

Cambodians are voting to elect a 120-seat national assembly that is to ratify a constitution and form a new government. The radical Khmer Rouge, who originally agreed to take part, are boycotting the election.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has closed 400 sites due to security concerns, and was to conduct voting at some 1,400 sites around the country.

UNTAC: Voting 'Proceeding Calmly'

BK2305055093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 23 May 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 23 (AFP)—Thousands of Cambodians clamored to cast their ballots here Sunday on the opening day of voting for their first internationally recognized government in decades as a rain they called "holy water" from God drenched the city.

Officials from the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said the vote was proceeding calmly, and long lines of voters were reported in Kompong Cham province in the east and Siem Reap in the northwest.

The leaders of the three Cambodian factions—the Phnom Penh government's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) President Chea Sim, opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) head Son Sann—all cast their ballots at the capital's Olympic Stadium as 500 waiting people pushed, shoved and clamored to get through the gates to vote.

The hard-line Khmer Rouge, who are boycotting the elections, stayed away. UNTAC military commander Lieutenant General John Sanderson reported no serious attacks overnight.

The waiting crowd erupted in cheers and howls appropriate for a sporting complex as Prince Ranariddh entered. Son Sann received polite applause, while Chea Sim's presence went unnoticed, and for him the crowd was silent.

"There doesn't need to be a tribunal for the Khmer Rouge because these elections are the best tribunal," the young prince said after casting his ballot. "The Cambodian people went today to participate as massively and as freely as possible in this U.N. supervised and organized election."

U.S. envoy Charles Twining, on hand to observe the process, said the balloting was proceeding in a free and fair manner.

"I would say that the Khmer Rouge have failed today," he said. "That simply leaves the Khmer Rouge in the forest and I hope they enjoy the forest."

UNTAC is conducting six days of polling, the first free election here in decades that is the culmination of a massive 18-month U.N. peacekeeping operation designed to elect a legitimate government in Cambodia.

Some 4.7 million voters of the country's population of nine million registered to vote, but recent attacks by the Khmer Rouge have made voters in some areas concerned about the safety of going to the polls. Some 400 voting sites have been closed due to security concerns, and voting was to take place at 1,400 sites around the country.

The country is voting to elect a 120-seat national assembly that is to ratify a constitution and form a new government.

Cambodians interviewed at random here as they excitedly huddled under rainbow-colored umbrellas said they believed they had a free choice among the 20 parties vying in the election.

"Unfortunately I can only vote for the one person I like," said 36-year-old vegetable seller Nhem Kosal. "I love them all, but there is only one best one."

Dozens of Phnom Penh government civil servants lined up outside the Chaktomuk High School on the capital's main Tousamuth Boulevard and were let in out of the rain two at a time.

"It's better to vote in the rain than in the sunshine," said Foreign Ministry worker Hong Kalyan. "God is showing us the way to vote and cooling our thoughts to allow us to choose the best party. God is blessing us with holy water."

KR, Government Forces Clash

BK2305093093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Chhuk, Cambodia, May 23 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge forces briefly detained two French soldiers monitoring polling operations Sunday in this southern Cambodian district, U.N. officials said.

The incident occurred as Khmer Rouge troops clashed with government forces in the Chum Kiri sector, some 12 kilometers (eight miles) to the north.

According to United Nations officials, the Khmer Rouge had launched an attack on government forces from their positions in an inaccessible jungle-covered mountain region some two hours before polling began in national elections.

At midday, the clashes were continuing, with the sound of gunfire and mortar shells clearly audible from the district capital.

The two French soldiers were intercepted by a Khmer Rouge patrol and released almost immediately, although the guerrillas stole their vehicle which contained blank ballot papers being taken to polling stations, the officials said.

As a result, two stations were prevented from opening.

French Troops Fire on KR

BK2405115293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 24 (AFP)—French Foreign Legion troops opened fire on Khmer Rouge guerrillas who seized a polling station in southern Cambodia, in the first military exchange since voting began, military sources said Monday.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said the Khmer Rouge overran a polling station in Chum Kiri, Kampot province, and detained civilian staff briefly during the first day of polling Sunday.

Military sources said members of the legion's First Cavalry Regiment, responsible for U.N. peacekeeping in the area, rushed to the scene and forced 40-50 Khmer Rouge troops to withdraw after a brief exchange of fire.

Falt denied earlier reports that two French soldiers were detained during the incident and said the civilians were quickly released.

The fighting took place near Elephant Pass, site of Khmer Rouge strongholds.

It was the only instance of U.N. peacekeeprs opening fire on Khmer Ruge guerrillas during the first two days of the six-day election, military sources said.

Khmer Rouge Shelling Injures Two

BK2305114293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Sisophon, Cambodia, May 23 (AFP) - Shelling believed to have come from Khmer Rouge positions left two people injured, one of them gravely, just five minutes after polling started in the Cambodian elections Sunday morning, correspondents and U.N. officials said.

It could not be confirmed if the shelling was aimed at disrupting voting under way in the town of Poipet, or discouraging local voters, but they had no effect.

U.N. officials confirmed that two 75mm artillery shells were fired at 8:35 A.M., followed by a third at noon (0500 GMT). The third shell had caused no damage or injuries, they said.

The shells fell about one kilometre (half a mile) from the market and the polling station in Poipet, near an area with a heavy Khmer Rouge presence.

It was the first reported violence following the start of the voting, which the radical Khmer Rouge are boycotting.

The gravely wounded Cambodian, hurt in the leg, was transported to a hospital operated by the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which organised and is supervising the election, a correspondent said.

UNTAC officials in Phnom Penh said that two people were slightly injured in the incident.

Four polling stations—in Poipet, Nimit, Sopi and Dong Aran—have been set up along the 48-kilometres (30-mile) stretch of national highway No. 5 between Poipet, on the Thai border, and Sisophon.

UNTAC forces accompanied by police and soldiers of the Phnom Penh government took positions around the polling stations in the region about 90 minutes before voting started.

Armoured vehicles were seen at regular intervals along Highway 5 as a deterrent to any violence.

A short time after the first shelling was heard, the Thai military temporarily closed the border at Klong Leuk.

Thai soldiers inside Cambodia as part of an UNTAC engineering detachment assigned to repair Highway 5 had been ordered to keep their distance from polling stations, a Thai officer said, adding that he expected the Khmer Rouge to continue sporadic harassment of the voting process.

Sisophon, a strategic crossroads where Highway 5 from Battambang joins Highway 6, from Siem Reap and continuing on to Thailand, is held by government troops, as is the adjoining countryside.

But they are surrounded by numerous Khmer Rouge positions. The faction considers Pailin, about 70 kilometres (45 miles) to the south, its capital.

The first voters began flooding toward the polling stations in the area a little before 8:00 A.M. (0100 GMT). Many were on foot but others traveled aboard vehicles supplied by the Phnom Penh government's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and adorned with party flags.

Half an hour later, more than 1,000 of the 3,500 registered voters in Sopi were already waiting outside the polling station to cast their ballots for one of the 20 parties in the contest, as others arrived on vehicles of all sorts.

"The elections are good for us, the Cambodian people, because we're finally going to have a legitimate government," said the Sopi village chief, 47-year-old Su Muey.

"I am going to vote for the most democratic party," he added, making no secret of his intention to support the formerly-communist CPP, headed by Phnom Penh government Premier Hun Sen.

But in Dong Aran village, hard by Khmer Rouge-controlled territory, Pet Li said he would not be voting [sentence as received].

"I came just to look," said the 22-year-old unemployed man, adding that he was not worried by the prospect of Khmer Rouge attacks.

"I'm used to them," he said.

Voting Ends; Few Incidents Reported

BK2305104693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 23 (AFP)—Armed U.N. peacekeepers loaded ballot boxes into trucks late Sunday following the closing of the polls in the first free election here in decades designed to elect a legitimate government in Cambodia.

The boxes were being whisked away to "safe havens" under guard of U.N. peacekeepers.

Initial voter turnout appeared to be strong in Phnom Penh, its surrounding areas, and in the electorally important Province of Kompong Cham—where the highest number of deputies in the new 120-member National Assembly will come from.

First reports from the countryside indicated only two violent incidents in an otherwise peaceful day of voting. The feared large-scale attacks by the Khmer Rouge never materialized.

Cambodians are voting to elect a National Assembly that is to ratify a constitution and form a new government. The radical Khmer Rouge, who originally agreed to take part, are boycotting the election.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was planning to open 1,400 polling stations around the country, but an undetermined number were closed by rain that made roads muddy and impassable, U.N. officials said.

KYODO Reports Election Activity

OW2305130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 23 May 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 23 KYODO—A suspected rebel attack killed two Cambodians and destroyed ballot boxes in southern Cambodia on Sunday as the war-ravaged country opened its first national elelction in 21 years under the supervision of the United Nations.

In a separate incident, artillery fire sent voters fleeing in western Cambodia, but no damage or casualties were immediately reported.

But the election otherwise went fairly smoothly under heavy security precautions, initial reports reaching the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said.

"It's really incredible we have come thus far," UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi told a small number of Japanese reporters as he left his office in downtown Phnom Penh on a tour of polling stations.

The six-day vote is the culmination of 14 months of the 22,000-strong UNTAC mission with a mandate to ensure a free and fair election, and restore peace to the country plagued by decades of civil war and upheaval.

The mission has cost the lives of 14 UNTAC members and volunteer election workers in hostile action, mostly blamed on the radical communist Khmer Rouge rebel faction.

The guerrilla group has vowed to thwart the election with violence on grounds it will only legitimize the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government, its archenemy.

"We hope to see as much voter turnout as possible on the first day," said Akashi, a Japanese diplomat. "We want to ensure a turnout rate of at least 70 percent."

A total of 4.76 million people, or 95 percent of eligible voters, have registered, and Akashi said last week he expects voters to come "in the millions."

Meanwhile, UNTAC election officials evacuated a polling station in the southern province of Kampot early Sunday after an armed group of suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas surrounded it.

The group fired a rocket toward a village where the station is located, killing two residents, local people and UNTAC officials said.

The guerrillas also opened fire at ballot boxes before withdrawing, they added.

In the western town of Poipet bordering Thailand, some 300 voters fled when two artillery shells landed about 2 kilometers from a polling station half an hour after voting began at 8 A.M., UNTAC officials said. Two local residents were slightly injured by the artillery shells. In the north western province of Banteay Meanchay, besides Poipet, five cannonballs landed near two polling stations.

In Phnom Penh, Cambodians braved rain and threats of violence to vote at 118 heavily-guarded polling stations for a 120-member Constituent Assembly which will then form a new government in about three months.

At the dilapidated Olympic Stadium, the biggest polling station in the capital, Chea Sim, head of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), and his wife were the first to cast ballots.

Before getting his ballot, he dipped the tip of the index finger of his right hand into a tiny cup containing invisible fluorescent ink, a practice to ensure prevention of double voting.

The ink will last on a voter's finger during the election period. Election staff examine each voter's fingers to determine if the voter has already been marked with the ink.

Chea Sim then proceeded to one of the 16 makeshift voting booths made of cardboard to vote for his choices among the 20 competing parties listed on the ballot for the election.

Seats will be allocated in proportion to the number of votes won under a special proportionate representation.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the royalist Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party loyal to his father, Head of State Prince Norodom

Sihanouk, later arrived at the same polling station to the applause of a large crowd waiting to vote as UNTAC military personnel toting AK47 rifles stood guard.

An exit poll of 10 voters gave seven votes to Funcinpec, a French acronym for the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia. Two votes went to the CPP and one to the Freedom for Democracy Party, one of the smaller parties.

One voter said there is heavy support for Funcinpec, loyal to the former Cambodian king, because people "want to put on a new shirt" after more than a decade of rule by the CPP which replaced the Khmer Rouge in 1979 with the aid of invading Vietnamese troops.

"We believe Funcinpec will be able to ensure peace and force out Vietnamese settlers after coming to power," said a Foreign Ministry employee who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Khmer Rouge, along with its two allies against the Phnom Penh government—Funcinpec and another fragmented noncommunist faction—signed the 1991 Paris peace accord with the CPP faction, but has opted out of the peace process.

Khmer Rouge Attacks Detailed

BK2305133793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 May 93

["Flash News"]

[Text] 1. Kampot Province: A group of about 50 Khmer Rouge [KR] soldiers blew up a train traveling from Kampot to Phnom Penh, attacking with machine guns and B-40 and B-41 rocket launchers at the 195-km marker at 1245 on 22 May. The locomotive and some wagons were derailed and badly damaged. A state railway company official was killed, while nine civilians, two railway guards, and a rail worker were seriously wounded. A railway guard and five rail workers were also abducted.

On 23 May at 0530, a group of 30 KR troops attacked the polling station at Chumpu Voan commune on coordinates 05/376 in Chum Kiri District.

On the morning of 23 May, a group of KR rebels fired several B-40 rockets on the polling station at Dambouk Khpuos commune in Angkor Chey District of Kampot Province, wounding two voters. And at 1600 on the same day, a mortar fired by the KR landed near the polling station of Wat Po in the Kampot provincial capital, but no damage has been reported.

2. Kompong Thom Province: On 21 May at 2100, a group of KR rebels from the 217th division fired DK-type shells on Preah Neak monastery in Baray District, wounding 20 civilians and damaging the monastary. At present, they are prepared to shell some townships, especially the district seat of Stoung.

These activities show more clearly the true nature of the KR rebels. They are well guided and organized in subverting and preventing the Cambodian people's 23 May election from being a success, as the national and international communities expect it to be.

These actions are a serious threat. The international community and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia should, with their rights to settle the Cambodian problem, take urgent measures to isolate the KR and provide the Cambodian People's Armed Forces with the proper conditions to carry out their duty. This is to ensure the security and safety of Cambodians nationwide, who are currently taking part in making the polls successful.

UNTAC 'Cautiously Optimistic'

OW2305142593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1405 GMT 23 May 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, May 23 KYODO—At least one-third of Cambodia's all eligible voters went to the polls Sunday on the first day of a United Nations-supervised national election despite three rebel attempts to disrupt it, raising cautious optimism about its final outcome, a U.N. spokesman said.

Between 1.5 million to two million voters cast ballots across Cambodia as the six-day election, the first in 21 years in the war-ravaged country, concluded its opening day, said Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"The first day of voting is certainly a great encouragement for all of us," Falt said.

"But we remain cautiously optimistic. This is a six-day process and we have to remain focused on a lot (more)."

The spokesman said three minor incidents, all attributed to the radical Khmer Rouge rebel group, occurred Sunday morning, but none of them affected voter turnout nor any casualties were reported.

The guerrilla faction has vowed to quash the election with violence, saying it will only legitimize the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government.

In the southern province of Kampot, a small Khmer Rouge group intruded a polling station and opened fire on ballot boxes, but voting went ahead without further incidents, Falt said.

But KYODO NEWS SERVICE learned from local sources that a rocket fired toward a village where the station is located killed two residents.

In the western province of Banteay Meanchey along the Thai border, mortar and artillery fire reached the vicinity of two polling stations in separate incidents but neither affected voting, the spokesman said.

"Nobody can deny the eagerness to vote shown by Cambodians in (the southeastern province of) Kompong Cham," where police faced difficulty in cotnrolling the crowd, he said.

In Phnom Penh, about 150,000 voters or 35 percent of the total cast ballots while in the central province of Kompong Thom, the voter tournout reached 40 percent, he added.

"It's really incredible we have come thus far," UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi told a small number of Japanese reporters as he left his office in downtown Phnom Penh on a tour of polling stations. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk Calls on Khmer Rouge To Lay Down Arms

BK2405034093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0319 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 24 (AFP)—Cambodia's senior statesman, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, called Monday on the Khmer Rouge to lay down their arms.

Speaking at a peace rally held in front of his palace here, on the second day of Cambodia's week-long elections, the 70-year-old prince launched a fervent plea for an end to violence in Cambodia.

He said his call was directed to all factions who continue to resort to violence, but in particular to "the party of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia)"—the formal name of the Khmer Rouge.

"We must make the elections useful," Sihanouk said. "The elections must save Cambodia, not just implement democracy but save Cambodia."

The radical Marxist Khmer Rouge, whose bloody rule under Pol Pot was ended here in the late seventies following an invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam, has boycottted the U.N.-organised elections and threatened to disrupt the polls.

Amid applause Sihanouk told the crowd, which included many Buddhist monks in their saffron robes and white-clad nuns, that "the party of Democratic Kampuchea—the Khmer Rouge—and other parties who continue to use violence" should implement the Buddhist precepts of peace and compassion.

The former monarch said all Cambodians should "accept to achieve national reconciliation and to put once and for all an end to violence and to hatred."

Turning to the polls—the first democratic elections in Cambodia in decades which has already seen well over one million casting their votes—the prince described them as "certainly a good thing, a wonderful thing."

However, he questioned the "usefulness" of the elections "if the party of Democratic Kampuchea continues the war and if some other parties and people continue (to use) violence."

In an apparent reference to the Khmer Rouge claim that Vietnam still has troops in Cambodia, Sihanouk said no "false pretexts" should be used "to justify that we cannot achieve reconciliation."

Vietnam announced a full withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia in late 1989, but the Khmer Rouge dispute this and consider the current election as a bid to legitimize Phnom Penh's Vietnam- installed government.

Sihanouk returned here from Beijing, where he has an official residence, on Saturday [22 May], a day before voting began. His return was seen as a show of support for the election.

There had been fears that Sihanoak, who had been away from Cambodia since mid-April, would stay out of his country during polling time.

Kompong Cham Polls Temporarily Closed 24 May

BK2405084893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Kompong Cham, Cambodia, May 24 (AFP)—Mortar fire killed one civilian and scattered shooting incidents prompted the temporary closure of six polling stations Monday in Kompong Cham province, U.N. officials said.

U.N. military observers here downplayed the incidents as "normal" in Cambodia's most populous province, and said they did not appear to be slowing the steady turnout of voters.

"You could say Kompong Cham returned to normal today after a day of relative calm," said a military observer.

In Phnom Penh, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said mortar fire killed a Cambodian civilian in Prey Chhor District, about 60 kilometers northeast of Phnom Penh.

One polling station was closed following the incident.

In Bathey, just west of Prey Chhor, two polling stations were temporarily closed when two B-40 rockets were fired nearby, as were two others in Kang Meas, just south, where shooting was heard, U.N. military observers here said.

At least three were expected to reopen during the afternoon.

Up the Mekong River in Stung Trang District, an exchange of fire between Phnom Penh government troops and Khmer Rouge guerrillas prompted the brief closure of a nearby polling station, U.N. observers said.

The temporary closure of polling stations in Kompong Cham demonstrates the flexible strategy U.N. electoral organizers have taken in the face of the threat of attacks from the Khmer Rouge, who are boycotting the six-day poll.

Stations are shut temporarily but not withdrawn, and then reopened as soon as the coast is clear, U.N. officials here said.

In addition, polling is being staggered in Kompong Cham with half of the more than 200 polling stations open during the first three days, and half during the second three, to double security and supervision.

"Because we have this six days with split polling, we don't have to take any risks," a military observer said.

More than one-third of Kompong Cham's 700,000 registered voters cast their ballots on Sunday, the first day of polling, when no violence was reported.

On Monday, Phnom Penh government Prime Minister Hun Sen flew by helicopter to Kompong Cham to vote in his home province.

Kompong Cham is Cambodia's most populous province, with the largest number of seats—18—in the constituent assembly due to be formed out of this week's elections.

While the main roads and population centers are all fully controlled by the Phnom Penh government, there are small units of Khmer Rouge in virtually every district, military observers said.

The last serious incident reported in the province was at Skun on Saturday, near the site of Monday's mortar attack, where two Chinese U.N. peacekeepers were killed, apparently by a stray B-40 rocket fired by Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacking a nearby Phnom Penh government police post.

Polling Proceeds Despite 'Scattered Incidents'

BK2405091893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 24 May 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 24 (AFP)—Scattered incidents of Khmer Rouge violence closed polling stations in four areas of Cambodia Monday, but 42 percent of the electorate had voted on the first day, leaving the U.N. election relatively-unscathed, U.N. officials said.

Shelling in Siem Reap Province closed polling sites in two districts Monday, one at Samrong near the Thai border where the Khmer Rouge prevented voting in four hamlets and another at Chi Kreng where two people were injured, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

In eastern Kompong Cham Province, B-40 rockets and mortars closed at least three polling sites and killed one civilian, Falt said. U.N military officials there said the Khmer Rouge were responsible for one of the attacks.

"Guarded optimism continues to be the rule for us. Anything can happen and before rejoicing we have to think of the work ahead," he said.

Voter turnout was lighter on the second day of voting, but on Sunday, 2.1 million Cambodians cast their ballots, or 42 percent of registered voters, he said.

The crush of hundreds at the polling site gates that typified voting on Sunday was gone Monday, but nonetheless a steady stream of voters were entering designated areas of the capital.

Northwestern Battambang Province had the highest turnout on the first day, with 58 percent of the electorate voting, and a number of other provinces also recorded a turnout higher than 50 percent.

In Siem Reap, 110,760 voters of the 269,000 registered—about 45 percent—voted Sunday, U.N. provincial electoral officer Lyla Korn said.

Falt also reported a violent incident by government Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF) [as received], when 10 armed soldiers burst in to a polling station in Ratanakiri Province near the border with Laos "to protest against the use of pencils and not pens."

The soldiers threatened the polling team, and the site was forced to close early, he said.

The lack of overall disruption by the Khmer Rouge took U.N. officials and diplomats by surprise, but they predicted that more attacks could come in the next few days.

"The Khmer Rouge capacity to disrupt these elections still exists. I'm afraid we're going to let our guard down," said a Western diplomat who called the first day a "dazzling success."

Officials expected most of the voters to have cast ballots by the end of Monday, even though one more day of stationary polling and three more days of mobile polling were to continue through Friday.

A U.N. military observer in Siem Reap typified the activity there as "less than we get in a normal day."

"Inactivity on such a large scale would make you wonder," he said. "The (Khmer Rouge) promised to disrupt the elections, and now they don't appear to be doing so. It's very hard to say why, but it's very uncharacteristic."

Falt also clarified an incident in Kampot Province Sunday that closed voting in Chhum Kiri District, saying that the electoral team and U.N. civilian police there had been detained, but that the French legionnaires guarding them had not.

He also said voting had resumed at one polling station there Monday after being called off after the attack in which the Khmer Rouge shot at ballot boxes and stole a U.N. vehicle, which other U.N. officials said contained empty ballot boxes and electoral materials.

DK Spokesman: Cambodians Oppose UNTAC Polls

BK2405040993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] On 21 May, the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] said at a news conference held in the Democratic Kampuchean zone that by forcing the Cambodian people to go to the polls, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] is making them commit suicide and kill their nation through a plot to legitimize the Vietnamese occupation and annexation of Cambodia.

The spokesman said that the Cambodian nation and people both inside and outside the country opposed UNTAC-organized elections because:

1. UNTAC has organized the elections in a situation when old and new Vietnamese aggressor forces are still everywhere in Cambodia. Moreover, the Vietnamese are given the right to vote.

2. Vietnam is carrying out a war of aggression against Cambodia.

3. Vietnam and its puppets are enhancing political terrorist and fascist acts to crack down on the people.

As for the electoral offices much propagated by UNTAC, they exist only on paper. UNTAC has tried to deceive the others about the number of these offices, saying that there are this or that many. As a matter of fact, UNTAC does not have electoral offices in communes, villages, and localities in the countryside.

For example, there are no such offices in 90 to 93 percent of the areas in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, and Banteay Meanchey Provinces; 70 percent of the areas in Battambang and Pursat provinces; 60 percent of the areas in Kompong Cham and Kampot Provinces; 50 percent of the areas in Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Speu provinces. A similar situation is also seen in other provinces.

The spokesman noted that the propaganda launched by UNTAC and its allies inside and outside UNTAC to the effect that there were electoral offices and pollwatchers was just a deception to fool the national and international public opinion and a ploy to legitimize the Vietnamese puppets through which Vietnam can further occupy Cambodia.

As a matter of fact, UNTAC cannot hold the elections. Top UNTAC officials, including Akashi, Sanderson, and Austin, have admitted that there is no neutral political environment, security, nor conditions conducive to the elections.

The majority of UNTAC personnel from the Third World countries as well as diplomats and watchers of the Cambodian issue have also voiced disagreement with the holding of the elections. They say that there is no security atmosphere and that UNTAC has not implemented the Paris agreement, verified Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia, nor given any role to the Supreme National Council. UNTAC has allowed the Vietnamese to hold Cambodian identity cards and to register for the elections. They add that such elections cannot be characterized as free and fair, but are a violation of the Paris agreement. Top UNTAC officials have admitted themselves that there are no favorable conditions for the elections, yet UNTAC has decided to hold the elections. Such elections will not help Cambodia to enjoy peace. Clearly, UNTAC is holding the elections in order to continue kindling the war; to legitimize the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets so that the allies will supply weapons and aid to the Vietnamese and their puppets to carry on their war to fight the resistance forces, particularly the Democratic Kampuchea [DK]'s forces, and kill the Cambodian people.

For this reason, UNTAC will have to take full responsibility for the consequences arising from the elections. UNTAC has no right to put the blame on anyone else.

Concerning the plan by the United States and its allies to supply arms to the Vietnamese and their puppets to fight the resistance forces and DK, the spokesman said that their strategy is to eliminate the resistance forces, particularly DK, so that they can scramble for their economic, political, and strategic interests in Cambodia.

He said that the U.S. activities in Cambodia are not constructive to Cambodia's peace and national reconciliation. On the contrary, the U.S. activities help the Vietnamese and their puppets especially to realize Vietnam's Indochinese Federation strategy; and they affect not only peace in Cambodia, but also regional peace as well as the interests of the United States and its allies in this region.

Concerning the settlement of the Cambodian problem, the PDK spokesman said that the PDK's stand is still to support and implement the Paris agreement. It particularly supports Prince Norodom Sihanouk's national reconciliation plan to set up a four- party provisional government of national reconciliation with Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the prime minister and supreme commander of a four-party army.

UNTAC Accused of Collusion With SRV

BK2405074593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 May 93

["Article": "Sanderson and Akashi Openly Use the Forces of the Puppets and the Vietnamese Aggressors To Launch Military Operations Against the Cambodian People and To Force the Latter To Vote. Is This the Kind of Activity that UNTAC and Allies Call Free and Democratic Election?"]

[Text] Sanderson, military commander of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], on 20 May issued an order allowing the forces of Vietnam's puppets and of the Vietnamese aggressors to launch operations to attack the Cambodian people, the resistance forces, and Democratic Kampuchea, to force the Cambodian people to vote to kill their nation and themselves under UNTAC auspices.

The statement by Sanderson and Akashi on using the forces of the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets will be fueling the war of aggression of the Vietnamese and Vietnam's puppets. What Sanderson and Akashi have done is very wrong and has serious consequences for both peace in Cambodia and peace, security, and stability in the region. For the past 18 or 19 months, UNTAC has not implemented the Paris agreement and has violated the agreement at will. UNTAC has not verified that Vietnam has withdrawn its aggressor forces from Cambodia; UNTAC has kept the Vietnamese and allowed them to continue their aggression and occupation of Cambodia. UNTAC is preparing the election to legitimize the regime, Vietnam's puppet, so that Vietnam can legitimately annex Cambodia.

Now that UNTAC has been exposed, UNTAC's election to kill the Cambodian nation and people is disgracefully defeated because it is opposed by the Cambodian nation and people who categorically reject it. Sanderson and Akashi have thus turned to using the forces of the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets to launch military operations to repress the Cambodian people and to force the latter to kneel down and have their heads chopped off. This is violating the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. It is violating Cambodia's sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. It also against international law and the UN Charter.

The Cambodian nation and people and peace- and justice-loving forces the world over absolutely will not let the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets, and allies inside and outside UNTAC to cut their thoats and to kill the Cambodian nation and people through the election to legitimize Vietnam's annexation of Cambodia. The Cambodian nation and people have the right to defend themselves and the right to struggle to defend the nation and people and their sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets and lackeys, and allies inside and outside UNTAC, who are colluding to fuel Vietnam's war of aggression, are responsible for all consequences resulting from their crime.

SRV Troops, Weapons Said Brought to Kompong Som

BK2305035893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] According to reliable reports from Kompong Som, on 5 May, Vietnam brought 80 armed Vietnamese troops from Vietnam by motor boats to Ream village, Ream commune, in Prey Nop District, Kampot Province. The reports say that on 7 May, the Vietnamese aggressors brought 10,000 assorted weapons by boats from Vietnam to Kaoh Ta Kiev island, opposite Ream and Kompong Som City. The reports add that on 11 May, the Hanoi Vietnamese dispatched 600 troops by boats from Vietnam to Phnum Koki in Ream commune, Prey Nop District, Kampot Province.

Reliable sources say that between early April and mid-May, the Hanoi Vietnamese brought Vietnamese troops from Vietnam by land and sea and through Takeo and Kandal Provinces, the lower Mekong, Svay Rieng, Krek, and Route 22 in Kompong Cham Province, Snuol, Dak Dam, Route 19, and so on, to act as forces to support Vietnam's puppets during and after the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] election.

These forces have been dispatched by Vietnam to Cambodia for the following purposes:

1. To act as forces putting pressure on various political parties and the Cambodian people during the UNTAC election; and

2. To prepare to attack the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces in all eventualities during and after the election. [passage omitted]

21 May Rally in Thmar Puok Reported

BK2305043093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 May 93

[Summary From Poor Reception] "On 21 May, people in Sisophon, coming from 10 districts and comprising approximately over 3,000 representatives, including many monks, held a demonstration and marched to the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] office in Thmar Puok district town."

The people, coming from 10 districts—North Sisophon, Thmar Puok, Ampil, Samraong, Sisophon, Preah Net Preah, Chongkal, Srei Snam, Kralanh, Mongkolborei, and Phnum Srok—held placards displaying "slogans opposing the UNTAC election to destroy the nation and calling on the Samdech Euv [Sihanouk's popular title] to lead his children, reconcile the nation, and to reunite the Cambodian nation."

Representatives of the demonstrators read their petitions calling for the end of the election and handed them to UNTAC officials with the request that these petitions be forwarded to the UN secretary general, Akashi, Sanderson, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Khieu Samphan, Son Sann, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Ieng Muli, Sam Rangsi, and diplomats accredited to the Supreme National Council [SNC], and those directly concerned with Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia.

"A representative of the demonstrators then asked an UNTAC representative: Have you implemented the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement? Do you know that you are holding an election to destroy the Cambodian nation and people? In the Paris agreement, which clause discusses the election? If foreigners commit aggression

against us, do we have the right to struggle against these foreign aggressors? [words indistinct] Do you know that you are holding an election in a situation in which Vietnamese aggressor forces are still present in Cambodia and that this is tantamount to handing over Cambodia to Vietnam to be annexed? We categorically reject the election to kill our Cambodian nation and people."

"The demonstrators' representative demanded that UNTAC representatives immediately answer these questions. An UNTAC representative of Dutch nationality could not answer the demonstrators' questions and asked to reply tomorrow, that is 22 May at 1500."

"While the demonstrators' representative was holding talks with UNTAC representatives, the demonstrators stood behind the office and shouted slogans and read petitions through loudspeakers."

FUNCINPEC Dark Horse To Win Elections

BK2305054493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 May 93 p A10

[Commentary by Jon Ogden on the "World News desk in THE NATION"]

[Text] For some time now pundits have been prophesizing a big win for the Hun Sen administration in the Cambodian election, but come June 9 when the results are announced they may well be wiping egg from their faces. At one stage last year the Sihanoukist Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party was seen as running neck and neck with Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party. But towards the end of the year the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) unleashed a propaganda offensive that a vote for Funcinpec would be letting in the Khmer Rouge via the back door, due to the party's vague promises to include the hated faction in a government of reconciliation.

That, allied with a widespread campaign of intimidation of both voters and opposition party workers, has resulted in many observers marking down the CPP as the clear favourite when voting starts today. But things in Cambodia are never that straight forward, so my money will be on a surprise result, with Funcinpec putting in a better showing than currently expected and stealing a majority of the 120 seats in the Constituent Assembly. With a vigorous campaign of intimidation underway by the Phnom Penh government it is not surprising that, if pressed, Cambodians are telling UN officials and pollsters that Hun Sen's party will be their choice.

After all the Khmers who survived the holocaust years of the Khmer Rouge are the ones who quickly learned to hide from even their closest relatives any thought, feeling or emotion which could be construed as criticizing their political masters for fear it could condemn them to death. Virtually every voter will have experienced something of the Maoist faction's reign of terror from 1975 to 1979 and well knows the virtue of keeping lips firmly sealed.

But after decades of extreme suffering, Cambodians are nothing if not resilient. They have survived the most destructive bombing offensive in history from the US Air Force, the loss of one fifth of the population during Pol Pot's genocidal years in power and more than two decades of civil war. Throw in extreme droughts, famine, floods and an estimated million land mines and it becomes clear that the Cambodians are quite capable of taking some political intimidation in their stride and voting from the heart.

One can also take heart from the words of Theo Noel, Untac's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] chief electoral officer in Kompong Cham, where among others Hun Sen will do electoral battle. He said: "The Cambodians have no faith in Untac's ability to provide security during polling but they do believe in our ability to preserve the confidentiality of their vote. More than anything else the message we get from the Cambodians is that they want the election to go ahead."

Certainly Untac has gone to considerable lengths to persuade the Cambodians that there will be no comebacks from their vote and have also invested a lot of money in bringing in all the latest technology to minimize the chances of ballot rigging.

The Paris Peace Accords which the four main factions signed in 1991 called for "free and fair" elections and a "neutral political environment". But it is now very hard to find any Untac officials who would claim that the polls are going to be anything near like that. Privately they say the best they can deliver now is a result of some kind, which will give Cambodian democracy a tenuous beginning. For one thing the pitch was reduced in size by a fifth with the withdrawal of the Khmer Rouge from the electoral process. The territory they control became a no-go zone to Untac workers and voter registration was impossible disenfranchizing up to one million people. In the remainder of the country where registration has been possible, fear of violence has cut the number of polling stations Untac is setting up from 1,800 to 1,500. In Kompong Cham, the most populous province and with 18 seats polling stations have been cut from 310 to 216.

What this means is that the average Cambodian villager is a longer distance from a polling station. When a 2-km walk becomes a 10-km route march perhaps across a potentially mined or bandit-infested area, perhaps with young children in tow, it is easy to see that untold thousands may stay away simply because of the difficulty of voting, further upsetting any calculations pollsters may make.

The Phnom Penh government has already been rapped by Untac for muddying the waters of the "neutral political environment" and of course the Khmer Rouge, whose survival may depend on stopping the elections, have been playing their part. In some villages KR posters have gone up saying voters face a death sentence and there is every chance that polling stations will be the target of attacks by the guerrillas. All these factors make the actual turnout highly unpredictable.

There are a couple of other ingredients which may well weigh against the Hun Sen administration. One political certainty in Cambodia is that no one can make any capital out of being connected with the Vietnamese, who have been hated for centuries for grabbing Cambodian land and violating the country's sovereignty. The honeymoon period with the Vietnamese after they overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1979 was very brief. It wasn't long before the Vietnamese were transformed in the minds of the Cambodians from liberators to their usual role as an occupying force. Try as they might, the CPP cannot avoid being labelled as the government installed by Hanoi.

For all his faults, Prince Sihanouk is still seen as the country's saviour, not only by Cambodians but also the international community and one of Prince Ranariddh's best, indeed almost only, campaign lines is to emphasize constantly who his father is. Whatever else might be said about Sihanouk and his son, they have never had any links to the Vietnamese and just that will be enough to secure Funcinpec more than a few votes.

There's also an old saying in politics that you can't fool all the people all the time and the other wild card which may tip the scales in Funcinpec's favour is a growing awareness that Hun Sen's regime is corrupt. The premier admitted as much himself. Responding to the allegations, he was quoted as saying in a recent interview with THE PHNOM PENH POST: "Who makes these allegations? The same people who worked for Prince Sihanouk in the past, who worked for Lon Nol (who overthrew Sihanouk) and who sometimes joined forces with the Khmer Rouge. That's why I say that the people who make the accusations are old time corrupt people. And my government is very newly corrupt."

One line of Khmer Rouge propaganda, of the elite in Phnom Penh lining their pockets at the expense of the poor in the countryside, may well have struck a chord and will also figure large in voters' minds.

Anyway, whatever the dangers of predicting the outcome of the election, I'm going for Funcinpec. One of my tipsters was in a Phnom Penh photo shop. Having handed me a friend's picture of party leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh, I asked who he thought would win. The shop assistant, who could speak fluent English glanced either side of him, then furtively said: "We Cambodians don't like to say such things but I think he will," pointing down at the pictures of the prince.

FRDP Head Interviewed on Diplomatic Policy

BK2405095793 Phnom Penh KAOH SANTEPHEAP in Cambodian No. 2025 pp 1, 4

[From "Special Issue"—date of publication not given]

[Text] On 18 May at 0830, Swedish television interviewed Toek Ngoy, leader of the Free Development Republican Party [FDRP], on some policies the party will implement if it wins support from the Cambodian people.

Toek Ngoy said that he "will strengthen and expand the diplomatic sector worldwide," for example with Singapore, Japan, the United States, France, and so on. In particular, there should be relations with neighboring countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos. Peaceful negotiations using international law without violence and without racial discrimination, will be used in solving problems because this is the 20th century and the world should avoid war. Everything should be solved in accordance with the appropriate law already contained in the UN Charter.

We should use the strategy of solidarity with ethnic groups and solidarity with all countries the world over. If negotiations are held to solve conflicts, talks should focus on the basis of mutual benefit; we will benefit while others will also benefit.

Stengthening the diplomatic sector is very important. If we can establish relations with countries all over the world, our country will certainly move toward progress.

Paper Analyzes UN's Postelection Options

BK2405110593 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 21 May-3 Jun 93 pp 1, 18

["News analysis" by John C. Brown]

[Text] On Sunday May 23 more than a thousand polling stations will open across Cambodia. Potentially more than four and a half million Cambodians will vote, cashing in on the commitment made to them in the Paris Peace Accords: "The Cambodian people shall have the right to determine their own political future through the free and fair election of a constituent assembly."

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) believes that the Cambodian elections will be "free and fair." Prum Sokha, first deputy chief of the CPP, says for "Akashi to declare the election as not free and fair is ridiculous." The leaders of most of the other parties believe the opposite.

The Paris peace accords require Mr. Akashi to make public an assessment of "free-ness" and "fairness" after the election, but before the results are announced. For many, the evaluation can already be made. As one party leader put it: "How can the election be free and fair if everyone has guns?"

Both the U.N. and Cambodia will suffer if the result of an election widely considered not free and not fair are accepted. The finding, "free and fair," or "not free and fair," is crucial to both the future of Cambodia and the U.N. To conclude that the elections are not free and fair may send Cambodia spinning into a prolonged period of instability, one for which the United Nations is neither financially nor operationally prepared. But to call unfair elections fair is to impose a government on Cambodia that it might otherwise not have wanted.

The dilemma is deepened if we consider that the finding will be seen as an evaluation of the United Nation's effort here in Cambodia. The credibility of the finding will depend on some congruence between the finding and the reality of the situation in Cambodia. The U.N. will suffer to the degree that little evident congruence is seen.

The elections to be held this week are the culmination of 18 months of Herculean labor by the United Nations, particularly of the Electoral Component. Professor Reginald Austin, the chief electoral officer in Cambodia, says "holding an election was the ultimate critical objective" of the United Nations effort here. Mr. Akashi has characterized the elections as the "focal point of the entire operations."

And UNTAC is pressing ahead with elections in spite of signal set-backs that call into question the U.N.'s ability to deliver elections that are free and fair. Operating in an environment of ever increasing tension and danger, the United Nations has achieved some real successes in the past year. Notable among these are repatriation and voter registration. But UNTAC's failure to disarm the four factions and to gain real control over the administrative structure of Cambodia make it impossible in the view of many for these elections to be truly free and fair.

But are "truly free and fair elections" obtainable in any circumstance? Chak Saroen, the president of the Action for Democracy and Development Party, says that absolutely free and fair elections are impossible. "There is no perfect sphere, there is no perfectly dry surface—there are no perfectly free and fair elections."

Akashi has used language that implies that the elections, and the preparations and campaign leading up to them, need only pass a lesser standard, and in fact already do. Akashi told the International Polling Station Officers (IPSOs) gathered near Phattaya, Thailand, that these elections will be "mostly free and fair." Some might be tempted to say that he has "moved the goal posts," others would say that he is only facing reality. But we should not be fooled by the shift in the language. Akashi and the U.N. must defend the characterization, "free and fair enough" as much as he would have had to defend "free and fair." He must be pressed for criteria and justifications.

If most observers agree with the U.N. that the elections were free and fair "enough", the U.N. and the Cambodian people will benefit. But if most observers agree that these elections were "not free and fair enough," what should the U.N. do? Below I sketch out three options the U.N. might consider.

1. If these elections are not reasonably free and fair, Akashi must say so. The mandate of UNTAC must be extended and the elections held under conditions that can more credibly be defended as reflecting the informed will of the Cambodian people.

The U.N. can choose to be the most recent in a long string of outsiders who have installed governments in Cambodia, or they can call a spade a spade. Conducting elections central to the United Nations effort here, but they cannot be just any elections, they must be free and fair. To declare legitimate elections that are not free and fair is tantamount to the installation of a government in Cambodia by the United Nations. The U.N. can blame the Cambodian people for the failure to achieve free and fair elections if it likes, but it must recognize that conferring legitimacy or denying legitimacy is something completely within its own power, a responsibility it cannot shove off on someone else.

The government that gains international recognition at the end of this process cannot, in principle, be controlled by those most successful in distorting the United Nations effort—the campaign and the elections—to their benefit. Free and fair elections are central to the transition to a government that reflects the will of the Cambodian people. From this point of view, the massive effort and the billions spent on it will be for naught if the elections are not in reality—rather than simply characterized as—free and fair.

2. Alternatively, the U.N. can characterize the half-empty glass as half-full—this seems the path that the U.N. is choosing. Many would say that granting international recognition to a government that is the result of elections that are not free and fair is an injustice to the Cambodian people. But the U.N. can choose to view the elections in pragmatic, short-term consequential terms, rather than in more principled democratic terms. If the election "hoop" can be jumped through, free and fair or not, two things can happen, both to the benefit of Cambodia.

First, a Constituent Assembly will, under U.N. supervision, write a constitution constrained by principles stated in the peace accords. The liberal democracy it must establish will hold regular elections, allow a market economy and protect human rights. Whether the U.N. will be any more successful in shepherding the constituent assembly to a democratic outcome than it was in achieving a democratic outcome in the election is an open question. But, pragmatically, this is less important than stability and the second of the two benefits.

International recognition will allow investment in Cambodia and open the door to international aid. Perhaps most significantly, an internationally recognized government will, in principle, gain recognition of its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Even if a constitution is produced that is less "democratic" than many would like, there is an arguable benefit to a legitimately governed Cambodia as it faces the problems of its own development, integration into the world market system and the solution of its educational, infrastructure, and social problems, not to mention confronting or conciliating the Khmer Rouge. Some may decide that for the achievement of these benefits it is worth employing methods that are less than democratic.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the United Nations is not a disinterested party. To admit that these elections did not meet some minimum standard of "free-ness" and "fair-ness" would take the United Nations into uncharted territory, the United Nations peace accords have no provision for failure. The current mandate and the funding available to the United Nations has allowed it no margin for error in the conduct of these elections. And it would be difficult to overstate the importance of the successful completion of this mission to the U.N. There are other missions on the horizon but the role of the U.N. will be defined and constrained by perceptions of the successes and failures of this one.

3. Finally, one can argue that the elections should be declared not free and not fair, but the resulting Constituent Assembly should be empowered anyway. An option not considered by the writers or the signatories of the peace accords is for the U.N. to declare that these elections were neither "free enough," nor "fair enough," but to accept the results in any case. Such a finding has the virtue of honesty, and if the achievement of democracy is made to be seen as the goal of a process, rather than the outcome of a single transforming event (elections), the credibility of the U.N. may be preserved.

The U.N. can strengthen its post-election hand in Cambodia, by making a stronger post-election material commitment to ensure that stability is achieved, that the hard won gains in human rights so far achieved are expanded, that a truly democratic constitution is written, and that the next elections not only are held, but are "more free and fair." They would of course be monitored by the U.N. A major draw-back of this option is that the declaration would only confirm what the Khmer Rouge have been saying all along.

Akashi will make the determination on "free-ness" and "fairness" soon after the election. It will be interesting to hear what he has to say and how he defends it.

Minister Issues Statement on MOULINAKA

BK2105150993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 May 93

["Statement on Enhancing Measures To Ensure the Stability, Safety, and Security and To Maintain a Neutral Political Atmosphere Before, During, and After the Elections" issued by General Tie Banh, defense minister, in Phnom Penh on 21 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The MOULINAKA [National Liberation Movement of Kampuchea] Party and the Khmer resistance led by Admiral Prum Neakkareach, who broke off from the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and have been officially accepted by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to take part in the elections, recently launched activities to recruit troops to reinforce their former army. They are using this army in the electoral campaign—an act that runs counter to the Paris peace agreement.

In the name of a signatory to the agreement, on 23 April and 17 May, the Foreign Ministry Coordinating Committee of the State of Cambodia [SOC] sent letters Nos. 157 and 201 to the commander of UNTAC Forces calling for urgent, concrete measures to settle this matter.

In response to this proposal, on 7 May [date as heard], the Secretariat of the Mixed Military Working Group of UNTAC Command stressed that this army must be regarded as being outside the Paris agreement and an illegal army. A faction that controls any territory entered by this army has the right to settle this matter according to its rules.

Realizing that the MOULINAKA Party and Khmer resistance's illegal formation of an army and activities running against the agreement have seriously affected the neutral political atmosphere for the elections and for ensuring the stability, safety, and security for the people who will go to vote in the zone controlled by the SOC, the Defense Ministry issues the following statement:

I. We reject the army, which has been established and is being reinforced by the MOULINAKA and Khmer resistance currently staying in the SOC-controlled zone, at a time when the signatories in the Cambodian conflict are implementing this final stage of the Paris agreement. This army is outside the agreement and illegal.

II. To ensure stability, safety, security, and social order according to the agreement, and to enable the Cambodian people to feel secure and relaxed when taking part in the elections, the SOC—the party of the local administration—would like to launch an appeal and fix the time for the MOULINAKA Party and Khmer resistance to dissolve their army and hand over arms, ammunition, and explosives to the UNTAC or the local authorities as of 21 May until 2400 on 22 May 1993 so that this party can correctly abide by Annex three of UNTAC's agreement on the election and electoral law.

III. If the abovementioned time passes without any concrete result achieved, the directors general [words indistinct] provincial and municipal military regions, (?independent) divisions and regiments must take appropriate measures according to their respective duties against the activities which run counter to the agreement and the local administration's rules and regulations in compliance with UNTAC's directive No. 93/4 dated 17 March on the conditions regarding the possession and control of arms and explosives or all war weapons for implementation in Cambodia during the transitional period and various regulations of the local administration which are in line with this directive.

IV. Upon receiving this communique, all institutions and units under the command of the bodies as stipulated in item III above must actively pay attention to cooperating with the Cambodian People's Police, and the UNTAC's military units, civilian police, civilian administration, and human right organization in their respective areas and with the local authorities so as to carry out this task effectively in contribution to promoting the implementation of the agreement and ensuring the success of its final stage, that is successfully realizing the elections at the end of May.

Indonesia

Tunisian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Urges Reactivation of Trade

BK2205063293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tunisia has called on Indonesia to reactivate bilateral trade, the volume and value of which have decreased in recent years. Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya attributed the situation to a lack of acuity on the part of the two countries' businessmen to identify products for trade. In response, Indonesia is expected to hold a trade fair in Tunisia to inform the Tunisian people about Indonesian products. According to Ben Yahya, Tunisia is currently in need of capital goods and industrial products. Replying to reporters in Jakarta, the Tunisian foreign minister said Indonesian-Tunisian cooperation is a complementary form of South-South cooperation on the basis of exchanging expertise and experience.

Meets Officials, Signs Accord

BK2405102893 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0931 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] Jakarta, May 24 (ANTARA)—Visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya expected that the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] and European Community would take more concrete and intensive steps to solve the Bosnian conflict.

"I hope it would not be too late to take more intensive steps to overcome the Bosnian crisis," the minister told a press conference here over the weekend.

He appealed to the United Nations not to apply a double-standard policy in implementing the resolution of the Security Council on the Bosnian affair.

Speaking about Cambodia, Yahya hoped that the May 23 to 28 general elections in that country held as part of the Paris accord, would proceed peacefully and fairly.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas who flanked his Tunisian counterpart meanwhile said that maximal efforts would be take to safeguard the elections to enable the Cambodian peoples to channel their aspirations.

Earlier, Minister Yahya paid a courtesy call on the Indonesian head of state to hand over a personal invitation from the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Suharto to visit Tunisia.

While here, Ben Yahya signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of religion affairs which was concluded with the Religious Affairs Minister Tarmizi Taher and in the field of information which was signed by the Tunisian ambassador here Mohamed Gherib and the ANTARA News Agency managing director Hanjoyo Nitimiharjo.

Foreign Minister Alatas hailed the agreement as reflection of the South-South cooperation.

Exchange of thoughts and consultations between the Governments of Tunisia and Indonesia on bilateral and regional matters like the problems of ASEAN, Cambodia, the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Palestine, UN's sanction against Libya, and the negotiation process between Arab and Israel, were regarded as most useful and constructive by Yahya. [passage omitted]

He said consultations on these issues between the two countries are important, referring to the position of his country as the chairman of the UMA—which comprises Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Mauritania—and Indonesia as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Both Indonesia and Tunisia are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Three cooperation agreements were signed by Indonesia and Tunisia in July 1992 covering the fields of economy, technology and science.

He was optimistic about the bright prospects of cooperation between both countries following the visit here by 50 Tunisian businessmen in 1992 and that the results would be tangible in the near future.

Agrees To Boost Trade Cooperation

BK2405111493 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0939 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Jakarta, May 24 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia and Tunisia agreed to boost cooperation in the field of trade by encouraging businessmen from the two countries to have more contacts in the future, said Coordinating Minister for Industry and Trade Hartarto here over the weekend.

After a meeting with visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, Hartarto said the agreement should be realised soon as such business contacts are expected to increase foreign exchange earnings for the two countries.

The agreement that involves trade and investment is essential for the two nations to increase their respective export volumes, he added.

He further said that for Indonesia the agreement is important since Tunisia is playing an important role for Indonesia to get access to the African market.

On the other hand, he added, Indonesia also plays similar role for Tunisia which is willing to penetrate into the ASEAN and Asia-Pacific markets.

In spite of the fact that trade balance between the two countries is in favour of Tunisia, Hartarto said that Indonesia still plays its role in bilateral trade through the involvement of PT [Company Limited] Dok Kodja Bahari in a tender for the construction of ferries for the North African country.

On the same occasion, Ben Yahya also expressed his goverment's intention to buy some aircrafts from the Bandung-based Nusantara Aircraft Industry (IPTN).

Laos

Foreign Minister Meets Qian Qichen in Beijing

BK2405064993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] According to the Xinhua news reports from Beijing, Somsavat Lengsavat, foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], met with Qian Qichen, vice premier and foreign minister of the PRC, in Beijing on the morning of 21 May during his visit to the PRC.

Qian said that the friendly cooperative relations between the PRC and the LPDR have entered a new phase of big-scale development and these relations could be upgraded to a new level with joint efforts from both sides.

Qian added that the good neighborly relations between our two countries have witnessed an overall restoration and development in recent years. He noted that exchanges and cooperation in the fields of politics, economics, trade, military, education, culture, and public health, have also been considerably enhanced and increased.

He also pointed out that the two governments have solved various problems through satisfactory means in a relatively short period. This, he added, reflects the common aspirations of the two governments and the two peoples of China and Laos to turn the Sino-Laotian border into one of permanent peace.

We are satisfied with the current development of bilateral relations, the Chinese foreign minister concluded.

Somsavat Lengsavat expressed agreement with Qian's views on the aforementioned issues. He said that the LPDR Government will make various efforts to protect and maintain the time-honored traditional friendship between the two countries and will further promote their bilateral cooperation.

Besides, the two ministers also exchanged views on international issues of common interests.

After the talks, the two foreign ministers exchanged instruments of ratification on the border agreement between the two governments and signed an exchange certificate.

Somsavat Lengsavat arrived in Yunnan on 15 May on an official friendship visit to the PRC before reaching Beijing on 20 May.

Returns Home 22 May

BK2405101593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs, and his party returned to the capital of Vientiane at noon on 22 May after completing an official friendship visit to the People's Republic of China. The visit began on 15 May and was made at the invitation of Qian Qichen, vice premier and foreign affairs minister of the PRC.

During the visit, Somsavat Lengsavat and his party paid a courtesy call to Qiao Shi, Political Bureau member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the PRC Supreme People's Council. The two personalities expressed satisfaction with the incessant development of the relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between the two countries. They also expressed their desire to strengthen and improve the traditional good relations in various fields in order to bring ever more concrete benefits to the peoples of the two nations, Laos and China.

Somsavat Lengsavat and Qian Qichen held talks and informed each other of internal developments in their respective countries. They discussed directions to gradually enhance the development of bilateral relations. In addition, they exchanged views on international and regional issues of common interest.

Representing their respective governments, the two foreign ministers signed a note of exchange on the ratification of the border agreement between the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the PRC, which was signed in Vientiane on 31 January.

Somsavat and his delegation also visited several places of historical and cultural significance and economic establishments in Bejing; Qingdao, Shandong Province; and Kunming, Yunnan Province. The Lao visitors were cordially welcomed by Chinese authorities wherever they visited.

The visit to the PRC by the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] Foreign Affairs Ministry delegation, led by Somsavat Lengsavat, has scored a considerable success thus contributing to the promotion of comprehensive cooperation between Laos and China. Furthermore, the Lao delegation was also able to draw very useful lessons from China's implementation of the reform and open-door policy.

The Lao delegation was welcomed by Phongsavat, deputy foreign affairs minister; Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to Laos; and a number of high-ranking officials upon their arrival at Wattai International Airport.

To Visit Thailand 30-31 May

BK2405010293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 May 93

["Statement" of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—date not given]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, will pay an official friendship visit to the Kingdom of Thailand from 30 to 31 May.

Joint Venture Signed With U.S. Firm

BK2305092593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 May, at the Office of the State Planning and Cooperation Committee, a contract signing ceremony was held between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the United States' (Dupont)-Laos United Company and Laos' (Nikko) Consulting Company on the joint investment of two companies in mineral exploration and exploitation.

The exploration and exploitation of various kinds of minerals, especially gold, will be implemented first in certain parts of Sanakham District, Vientiane Province, and Paklai District, Sayaboury Province, on more than 6,000 square kilometers [sq km]. The project will be carried out in four phases beginning 1993.

The first two years are set for the first phase, i.e. for digging, discovery, and the collection of general data. During the period, the companies will pay the Lao Government a land lease fee of $5 per sq km. in the first year, and $6 per sq km in the second year.

The second phase, the exploration phase, will last five years. During the period, the companies will pay the land lease fee of $10 per sq km in the first year and $20 per sq km in the last and fifth year.

In the third phase, investors will make an economic analysis of the project, and will pay the lease fee of $100 per sq km per year.

The fourth and last phase will be for real production. The investing companies will pay the Lao Government $500 per sq km per year in fees.

This mineral exploration and production project is expected to last from 25 to 30 years. In the project's initial phase of prospecting and exploration, the investment will be about more than $2 million per year. In the following phases, the investment will increase to more than $100 million a year.

At the signing ceremony, representing the LPDR Government was Leuan Sombounkhan, deputy chairman of the State Planning and Cooperation Committee. The investing companies were represented by [names indistinct], the American company's deputy chairman in charge of exploration. The ceremony was attended by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning and Cooperation Committee, and deputy ministers from ministries concerned. Charles B. Salmon, Jr., U.S. ambassador to Laos, was also present.

Assembly Chairman Receives PRC Friendship Group

BK2205100793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] On the morning of 21 May, Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the National Assembly, received at the National Assembly Hall in Vientiane, a courtesy call from a delegation of the Chinese-Lao Friendship Association led by (Lian Sun), chairman of the association. On this occasion, the National Assembly chairman and the guest exchanged views on many issues, in particular relations, cooperation, and mutual assistance between the two Governments and peoples of Laos and China—relations, cooperation, and mutual assistance which, they noted, have been advantageously developed in the present.

Saman Vi-gnaket also pointed to the significant roles of the Lao-Chinese and Chinese-Lao Friendship Associations in developing relations between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the Chinese-Lao Friendship Association delegation will achieve notable success in its visit to Laos and that the visit will contribute to enhancing, ever more profoundly, solidarity and cooperation as well as mutual understanding between the two countries.

The delegation of the Chinese-Lao Friendship Association arrived for the visit to Laos on 15 May and is scheduled to depart for home on 22 May. During the visit, the Chinese friendship delegation held working meetings with groups of Lao sectors concerned, and visited some production and cultural establishments in Vientiane capital and other places in Vientiane and Luang Prabang Provinces.

On the evening of 21 May, the Chinese delegation held a meeting at Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane with a delegation with the Lao-Chinese Friendship Association led by Himmakon Manotham, acting chairman of the association. The meeting was intended to promote and expand the friendly relations between the two sides. At the meeting, the Chinese side informed the Lao side of the outcome of its visit to Laos. The Chinese delegation exchanged views with the Lao side on the direction for the friendship associations to carry out activities in the immediate future. The two sides also discussed many other issues of common interest.

Philippines

President Views Upcoming Trip to ROK

SK2305034593 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 May 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with President Fidel Ramos by Yi Yang-hyon in Manila; date not given]

[Text] Question [Q]: Democracy is taking firm root in both South Korea and the Philippines. How do you think the two countries can contribute to democratic development in other Asian countries? Do you plan to talk about this matter with Korean leaders?

Answer [A]: I believe that it is by their example that both the Philippines and the Republic of Korea can contribute to the development of democracy elsewhere. We can do this only if we can show by example and achievement that human freedom and democracy on the one hand, and purposeful leadership and national discipline on the other hand, can work together to bring about self-sustaining economic growth and a prosperous and fulfilling life for the people.

Q: I heard your country has an urgent task of expanding social infrastructure. Your government is now inducing foreigners, including Koreans, to invest in this area. What kind of incentives do you have in mind for the Korean businessman to invest in your country?

A: Indeed, we have been encouraging foreign investors to participate in our program of urgently building social infrastructure. We have considerably liberalized our investment rules, including the rules on property ownership and equity participation by foreigners. We have done away with almost all restrictions on foreign-exchange transactions. We are extending tax and other incentives for investments in infrastructure projects. And we have developed schemes to invite foreign, as well as Filipino, companies to undertake such projects.

Q: ASEAN members are pursuing the establishment of a free-trade area. AFTA [Asia Free Trade Agreement] is expected to contribute to promotion of trade inside the region. How do you prospect trade relations outside the region will develop after the free-trade area is completed?

A: We need not wait for AFTA to be completely realized before we and our economic partners benefit from it. After all, we in ASEAN will very soon begin the process of flowering or dismantling our trade barriers to one another's products. Under the fast-track program, tariffs of over 20 percent on 15 identified product lines will be brought down to 0 - 5 percent in ten years, while tariffs 20 percent to lower will take only seven years to come down to 0 - 5 percent. Tariffs currently 20 percent to lower on other products will be reduced to 0 - 5 percent in ten years, while tariffs above 20 percent will be brought down to 20 percent in 5 - 8 years and to 0 - 5 percent in the succeeding seven years. Non-tariff carriers will also be eliminated. The reduction and removal of trade barriers among ASEAN countries will progressively create an integrated market for 350 million people whose average income is rapidly rising. This should give investors from both inside and outside ASEAN, including Korea, a powerful incentive to invest in production facilities inside that market for distribution with it and beyond. AFTA, however, is non-exclusive, non-exclusionary, open to the world, and entirely consistent with GATT.

Q: You are to make a state visit to South Korea for the first time as a head of state of the Philippines. How would you capitalize upon this visit for further development of relations between Seoul and Manila?

A: Philippine-Korean relations have the strongest foundations. No bonds could be stronger than those forged in battle, than those formed by the shedding of blood of the peoples of both countries for a common cause, the defense of their freedom and the way of life that they share. The closeness of our relations has been manifested in the Philippines full support for the position of the Republic of Korea on the reunification on the Korean Peninsula and the related issue of the admission of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into the United Nations. I myself had the privilege of having played a small part in our common struggle. That struggle has found its full justification in the restoration of democracy in the Philippines and in democracy's new flowering in the Republic of Korea. It has been fully vindicated by the Republic of Korea's phenomenal economic achievements and, in the Philippines, by our return to the road to economic recovery.

The complementary nature of our economies provides us with the great potential to transform our strong historical and emotional bonds into cooperative relations that can bring enormous benefits to both our peoples. The Republic of Korea has reached such a stage of economic growth that it has become a full dialogue partner of ASEAN. It has also become the Philippines' third-largest source of foreign investments. During my visit, we will see how we can further increase those investments. We will also seek to expand the markets for our products in Korea and see how the Korean government can facilitate such an expansion. For this purpose, we will hold extensive discussions with the Korean private sector—the small- and medium-scale industries, as well as the big conglomerates—on both trade and investments. Both being members of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], the Philippines and the Republic of Korea can closely cooperate in dealing with the challenges facing us in the international economy. The complementary nature of the economies of the Philippines and the Republic of Korea has led to the development of a large number of Filipinos in Korea. We will look into how this phenomenon can be dealt with for the benefit of all.

Q: A necessity for expansion of economic and political cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific region has been continuously stressed by many people these days. Do you have any plan to discuss this matter with Korean leaders during your stay in Seoul?

A: We will discuss regional economic cooperation with the Republic of Korea's government and business leaders. The Asia-Pacific region is the most economically dynamic region in the world, and the Republic of Korea accounts for a significant part of this dynamism. We have been cooperating closely with the Republic of Korea in APEC and within the ASEAN dialogue framework. We hope that, through this visit, we can strengthen this process by intensifying our bilateral economic relations.

Q: Vietnam and Laos, both trying to introduce market economy, are expected to join ASEAN in the near future. What kind of barriers do you see, if any, in their efforts to join the Southeast market system?

A: Last year, in Manila, Vietnam and Laos acceded to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. They were at the same time admitted as observers in ASEAN. Their full membership should come as reforms take hold in those countries so as to make their economies compatible with the rest of ASEAN. In any case, their eventual membership is under constant consideration in ASEAN.

Q: There are some 20,000 Filipinos who are living in South Korea without proper visas. I heard your government is exerting diplomatic efforts to solve their problems. What do you think the two governments can do for smooth settlement of this issue?

A: I understand that the number of Filipino workers in Korea has gone down considerably as a result of stringent Korean government measures, so that the figure is now much lower than the 20,000 that you mentioned. This situation arose from the fact that the Republic of Korea has a severe shortage of labor of the type that the Philippines can readily supply. Our two governments have been discussing ways of how to improve the conditions of our workers in Korea and otherwise facilitate the settlement of this problem in a way that would be beneficial to both countries, specifically to Korean employers and Filipino workers.

Q: Your government is also trying to induce foreign investment in the projects to develop the Subic Bay. Please elaborate the merits that may attract Korean businessmen in the projects.

A: Subic Bay is a freeport and special economic zone. It offers infrastructures that, undoubtedly because they back-stopped sensitive military operations, are ranked first-class. These facilities, worth some US$8 billion, are also available for immediate use.

Among these facilities are transportation (international airport, seaport and road network), power supply, telecommunications system, unlimited water supply from protected watersheds. The manpower pool, comprising some 20,000 workers, is English-speaking and highly-skilled. The freeport is also located strategically, offering gateway access to growing markets in the Asia-Pacific region. It is accessible from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, and Manila.

It is planned as a self-sustaining industrial, commercial, financial and investment ycenter, tourism and recreation center.

Departs for Seoul 23 May

HK2305053093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Manila, May 23 (AFP)—Philippine President Fidel Ramos, a veteran of the Korean War, left for Seoul Sunday for a sentimental state visit to the economic dynamo that grew from the blood shed by Filipino and other foreign soldiers there four decades ago. He told diplomats and government officials at a departure ceremony here that he will exchange views on economic prosperity and political democracy with President Kim Young Sam during the visit.

"In Korea itself, we see how having defended, with assistance of the international community, their freedom and way of life, the people of the Republic of Korea now enjoy the benefits of one of world's most dynamic economies." He said the state visit "will seek to transform the close fraternal ties between our two peoples into a sustained and more substantial partnership for our common benefit."

He said Manila saw Seoul as a "prime source of investment and technology" and a potential major market for Philippine products. Ramos said South Korea was the third largest source of foreign investment in the Philippines last year, and has become "a valued employer for many of our overseas workers."

The state visit is scheduled for May 25-26. Before that, Ramos is scheduled to address a conference of the Pacific Basin Economic Council in Seoul on Monday to seek greater foreign investment in the Philippines.

Ople Heads Manila-U.S. Relations Review Panel

HK2405060693 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 May 93 p 3

[Report by Romy Tangbawan]

[Text] A team of Filipino officials and scholars are set to meet with American counterparts next month to redefine Philippine-American relations which has become increasingly strained since US forces were denied continued stay in the country's military bases.

The two-day dialogue set on June 21 to June 22 will be held in New York, said Sen Blas Ople (Laban) [People's Struggle], who will head the Philippine delegation.

Ople, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he will co-chair the meeting with Brent Scowcroft, national security adviser to former Presidents George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

The US side will be headed by Scowcroft with Frank Wisner, former US ambassador to Manila and now undersecretary of defense for policy; David Joel Steinberg, president of Long Island University and a historian; Stanley Karnow, journalist and long time Philippine resident who wrote "In Our Image," a book on RP [Republic of the Philippines]-US relations; Seth Mydans of THE NEW YORK TIMES, and Nicholas Platt, former US ambassador to Manila and now president of the influential Asia Society.

The other American representatives include Stephen Bosworth, former ambassador to Manila and now president of the US-Japan Foundation, former Congressman Stephen Solarz; World Bank executive director Mathew McCue; former treasury undersecretary Charles de Lara; American Insurance Group chairman Hank Greenber; and Elliot Richardson, former attorney general (justice secretary) and now head of the Office of Multilateral Aid Initiative.

The Philippine side headed by Ople will include Fr Joaquin Bernas, SJ, legal scholar and president of Ateneo de Manila University; Dr Jose Abueva, political scientist and president of the University of the Philippines [UP]; Jesus Estanislao, former finance secretary; Dr Mahar Mangahas, a political scientist; Armando Doronila, MANILA CHRONICLE editor; Teodoro Locsin Jr. publisher; Prof Alex Magno of the UP third World Studies Cneter; and businessman Alfredo Ramos.

Five Hundred Politicians Join Ramos' Lakas-NUCD Party

HK2105122793 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] More than 500 local officials from six provinces have formally joined the Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats [Lakas-NUCD]. In a ceremony at Malacanang, President Ramos formally welcomed the party's new members, including Governors Roberto Pagdanganan of Bulacan, Francisco Matugas of Surigao del Norte, Primo Morillo of Surigao del Sur, the vice governors of Bulacan, Oriental Mindoro, Northern Samar, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. He also welcomed 27 provincial board members, 83 mayors, 53 vice mayor, 168 municipal councilmen and several politicians who lost during the 11 May 1992 elections to the party.

Meanwhile, several Malacanang critics fear that the Lakas-NUCD's move to invite more opposition politicians to join its ranks could lead to a single-party system in the country. Others critics fear that the rift within the Lakas-NUCD could widen because of the complaints by several old party members that they were not consulted on the recruitment of new members.

Thailand

Prasong Responds to Clinton's Remarks on Burma

BK2205022293 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 93 p 7

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday Thailand may not be able to interfere much with Burma's internal affairs concerning pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said US President Bill Clinton's call for the Burmese military regime to release Mrs Suu Kyi coincided with international moves.

"But we have our own opinion, our own policy," he said.

The minister said he thought the Burmese Government had been listening to what other countries had said but Thailand might not be able to interfere much with that country's policy. However, Sqn Ldr Prasong denied that Thailand has agreed with all of the Burmese government's policies. Because of Thailand's closeness to Burma, the Thai Government needed to implement a policy to benefit both countries, he said.

Mrs Suu Kyi, the founder of the National League for Democracy Party, has been under house arrest in Rangoon since July, 1989, and since then there have been international efforts to pressure the junta in Burma to release her.

As for Thailand's future trade policy towards Cambodia, the foreign minister said the Government would wait until after that country's general election and the formation of the new government before deciding how Thailand would react to the changing situation. He declined to predict the outcome of the election.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said that Thailand would not consider any request from certain Cambodian groups to open the Thai-Cambodian border unless the call came from the Supreme National Council (SNC). He stressed that Thailand would not interfere with the situation in Cambodia. It would prepare only for any untoward incidents by increasing security at the border.

Army Commander Inspects Cobra Gold Exercise

BK2105142593 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] During his inspection of the Thai-U.S. joint military exercise, Cobra Gold 93, in the vicinity of Khao

Nong Kho in Tak Province, Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit was informed of the tactical drills on troop maneuvering, assault operations, and seizure of target areas conducted by Thai and U.S. soldiers. The army commander closely observed the drills and gave some advice on enforcement in cases of encounters with enemy troops and the modification, with budgetary limitation, of army weapons. This is so the weapons can match those of the U.S. side, which were used during the exercise. He said the exercise will enable the two countries' armed forces to cope with the world's changing situation in time.

Marshal Denies U.S. Supplying Cambodia Factions

BK2305143593 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The supreme commander rejected a report saying the United States was supplying weapons to Vietnam to oppose the Khmer Rouge in the general election in Cambodia.

Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, who left this morning for the PRC—where he will spend more than a week on an official visit—told reporters before his departure that he had checked with the military and found no information to indicate that the United States had been supplying weapons to any Cambodian faction. This contradicts a recent statement by the Khmer Rouge spokesman. The supreme commander said he is visiting China to forge better ties in his capacity as supreme commander. He said there will be no discussion on the Cambodian problem.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What measures have been taken to protect the Thai-Cambodian border?

[Woranat] There has been nothing serious so far. They are going to the polls now, most of them.

[Reporter] I mean what measures Thailand has taken as preparations...

[Woranat, interrupting] We have been preparing for it for a long time. [end recording]

Commenting on yesterday's robbery by a group of Khmer bandits of about two million baht worth of gold from a goldshop in Bo Rai District, Trat Province, the supreme commander said there is nothing unusual because there is fighting in Cambodia and the people are hungry. However, he said, the Navy and the Marines, the Border Patrol Police, and the Army-trained rangers have been combing the border area to track down the bandits.

Prasong, Army Commander on Cambodian Situation

BK2105150193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said the situation in Cambodia will become violent after the general election, as feared by many people. However, fighting between a new government and the Khmer Rouge will take place only in certain areas. Thai troops will simply stand to guard the border areas which might be affected by fighting inside Cambodia.

[Begin Prasong recording] There might be fighting between the Khmer Rouge and a new government that comes from the election. Since the Khmer Rouge are near our country, our soldiers must guard the border areas. Our point is that after the election, no Khmer faction will be allowed to enter our territory. They can fight inside their country. Our soldiers will push them out. I do not believe there will be as many refugees fleeing to our country as before. They, if unarmed, will be intercepted or detained somewhere for interrogation before sending them back to their country because there are many safe places in Cambodia. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit said that the majority of the people along the Thai-Cambodian border are frightened by the situation in Cambodia due to exaggerations by the mass media. As a result, trade along the Thai-Cambodia border has greatly declined.

[Begin Wimon recording] On several occasions, our news reporters thought the situation was so violent. I want to confirm, as far as the situation in Cambodia is concerned, that, first of all, fighting broke out among small groups. There is no large-scale war in that country yet. Second, the strength of the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh regime is equal. So, there will not be a winner in the fighting. Third, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the SNC [Supreme National Council] will definitely be able to keep the situation under control. Fourth, the general election will be held as scheduled. I believe that UNTAC is fair to all parties. [end recording]

The Army commander added that the lack of peace in Cambodia after the election will unlikely have any impact on Thailand, and the Army is prepared to push out refugees.

Military To Provide 'Cooperation' With UNTAC

BK2105141993 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, director of the Information Office of the Supreme Command, said the armed forces will provide cooperation and facilities for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC, if the situation in Cambodia continues to be violent. The armed forces have prepared several facilities for aircraft and may also allow the use of

Don Muang Airport. Lt. Gen. Anuson briefed to newsmen on a joint meeting of the military to discuss preparations to cope with this eventuality along the Thai-Cambodian border. The meeting was presided over by General Wisit Atkhumwong, armed forces chief of staff. The decisions adopted at the meeting will be submitted to Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak for reporting to the cabinet and for answering questions at parliament.

The director of the Information Office of the Supreme Command said the military had adopted plans to defend the country based on particular cases. For instance, a plan was adopted to deal with intrusions by any of the four Cambodian factions—the armed forces will give them a warning first, and if they resist our warning, the military will try to block their way and push them out. Concerning UNTAC forces, which might be withdrawn into Thailand in case violence erupts in Cambodia, he said the Thai military will provide cooperation under the policy of the Foreign Ministry and will provide accomodation and protection to those foreign forces. But UNTAC must store its weapons in appropriate armories. Thailand has also prepared airfields for landing of aircraft and, if necessary, Don Muang Airport could be used for this purpose.

About a possible influx of Cambodian refugees along the border, Lt. Gen Anuson said that if they cannot be pushed out, the military will temporarily hold them at certain safe areas which have to be inside Cambodia. They will be provided with shelter and food. The military will cooperate with voluntary agencies on help for those people. The military will try to send them back as soon as possible. Legal action will be taken against those who refuse to go back or who sneak into Thailand. They will be charged with illegal entry.

On control of the temporary checkpoints at the Thai-Cambodian border, he said the military is coordinating with authorities in charge of prevention of smuggling of prohibited goods into Thailand, including weapons and drugs. The military had the list of suspected contraband traders. It is seeking cooperation from the public to inform the military of any suspicious activities along the border.

Ministry Issues Statement on Cambodian Stand

BK2205091193 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 21 May 93

[Article: "Thailand's Position Regarding the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] Over the long history of more than 2,000 years, Thailand and Cambodia have been close to each other in terms of race, language, customs, and culture. They share a common border. Because of this, the question of political stability in Cambodia has always been a concern for Thailand. Violence in Cambodia has an impact on Thailand's security, the safety of life and property, and the welfare of the Thai people living near the Thai-Cambodian border. After the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, Thailand advocated a policy of peace for Cambodia. The Vietnamese forces have been withdrawn from Cambodia for more than three years now, and the United Nations has established the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to be in charge of holding a general election on 23-27 May without the participation of the Khmer Rouge. Thailand, however, supports this election since it will serve as a peaceful transfer of power in Cambodia. Still, there has been some misunderstanding on Thailand's position. For instance, Thailand has often been accused of either supporting or challenging the Khmer Rouge forces. For this reason, and in order to give assurances to the international community, the Thai Foreign Ministry has issued a statement containing seven points adopted by Thailand regarding the problem of Cambodia. They are:

First, the Thai Government condemns all political violence aiming to undermine the elections in Cambodia. If there is a crisis and also a request from UNTAC, the Thai Armed Forces are ready to send officials to evacuate UN officials as well as members of private organizations from Cambodia.

Second, the Thai Government is ready to support and recognize the Cambodian Government formed under the provisions of the constitution to be drafted by the constitution drafting assembly.

Third, the Thai Government respects Cambodia's sovereignty and follows a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia despite the fact that there could be a civil war after the election.

Fourth, the Thai Government will maintain contacts with all Cambodian factions that are members of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, or SNC. It was an utter misunderstanding on the part of the international community to think that Thailand has special relations with the Khmer Rouge. In the present circumstance, there is no necessity for Thailand to make a mistake by adopting such a policy.

Fifth, the world community must share responsibility in insuring the restoring of peace and stability in Cambodia after the election even though speculation paints a rather dark picture for the post-election Cambodian situation, predicting a civil war between the government and the opposition. It is the duty of the international community to find safe areas inside Cambodia for the Cambodian people to take shelter in.

Sixth, Thailand has played an important role in the reconstruction of Cambodia—it arranged for the meeting in Phatthaya of the four Cambodian factions which paved the way for a conclusion of the Paris peace agreements. Thailand has shouldered the burden of sheltering and providing food for some 35,000 Cambodian refugees for 13 years. It has also carried out a smooth repatriation of the Cambodians for the election in their country. Moreover, Thailand has helped in the reconstruction of Cambodia—removing mines and building basic infrastructure such as repairing bridges, building roads, schools, hospitals, and conducting training in rural development. Another major project is the construction of a 46-km road linking Poipet with Sisophon, scheduled to be completed in late May. The project costs more than 140 million baht. Those projects were direct assistance from the Thai Government. The Thai Government has also adopted other measures to promote peace in Cambodia: It observed the UN Security Council's resolution prohibiting the import of logs from Cambodia despite the fact that this constitutes a tremendous loss in income for the government.

Lastly, ASEAN and the EC, especially the UN Development Program, should cooperate in encouraging Cambodians to play a bigger role themselves in efforts to repair and restore the economic and social aspects of Cambodia after the election.

Dear listeners, the Thai Foreign Ministry's statement reflects Thailand's determination to contribute to a peaceful reconstruction of Cambodia, the first step toward achieving economic and social development in Cambodia. The process will not only benefit the people of Cambodia, but it will also contribute to regional security and economic prosperity in Southeast Asia as well as the world as a whole.

Paper To Provide 'Understanding'

BK2305052093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 May 93 p A10

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has distributed to its embassies worldwide guidelines on Cambodia to counter any negative reports against Thailand that may arise in the aftermath of the election that begins today. Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said the three-page document is designed to provide a better understanding of Thailand's position and role in the Cambodian conflict, especially during this crucial stage. The guidelines can be used by Thai diplomatic representatives to answer questions raised by foreign governments and the media concerning Cambodia.

"The missions are requested to promote the guideline in anticipation of unfair reports and accusations which are likely to be made against Thailand, should political violence and unrest continue in Cambodia after the election," according to the guideline obtained by THE NATION.

Thailand, the spokesman said, wants to make it clear that it supports the peace process in Cambodia, which has suffered from almost two decades of civil war. He also said that Thailand backs all four Cambodian factions in their effort to achieve national reconciliation. The document dismisses as a "misconception" criticism by the international community that Thailand still has a special relationship with the Khmer Rouge, saying that there is no evidence to support such a view.

The guidelines are in response to often-heard allegations levied against Thailand and its military leaders by the international community that their clandestine support had allowed the radical faction to adopt a hard-line attitude to the peace process and boycott the poll. Other allegations went as far as to accuse Thailand of being involved in violence in Cambodia, aimed at disrupting the UN-organized election. The Khmer Rouge guerrillas are largely blamed for the mounting violence inside the country during the lead-up to the election.

The guidelines point out that during the years when Vietnamese troops still occupied Cambodia, it was in Thailand's national security interests to lend political and military support to the Cambodian resistance, of which the Khmer Rouge was a strong partner.

"Since Vietnamese troops are no longer presenting a security threat to Thailand along the border, there is no logical reason why Thailand should play any part in supporting the political violence in Cambodia," it said. Thailand wants to see peace and stability established there as soon as possible. Bangkok thinks that it is the collective responsibility and obligation of the international community to ensure that peace and stability return to Cambodia after the poll.

Furthermore, the Thai government has strongly condemned all forms of political violence aimed at derailing the election and, if requested by the UN peacekeepers, the Thai military is prepared to rescue UN workers and their dependents from Cambodia. The guideline says that Thailand will strictly respect Cambodia's sovereignty and will therefore refrain from interfering in its internal affairs if civil war erupts after the election.

As far as the Cambodian refugees are concerned, it says any safe area for displaced Cambodians fleeing possible civil war between the government and opposing forces was the obligation of the international community and it would have to be in Cambodian territory. Thailand had given refuge to 370,000 displaced Cambodians escaping the war in their homeland in the past 13 years. Seven refugee camps along Thai-Cambodian border were set up for the displaced Cambodians. After years of using its own national budget, Thailand received financial and personnel assistance from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The final group of refugees left Thailand last month under a repatriation programme to participate in the election, the first of its kind since 1972.

Referring to the country's role in the Cambodian peace settlement, the guideline stresses that Thailand, in cooperation with other countries, had strongly pushed the Maoist faction to adhere to the peace agreement. But this effort appears to have failed. Before the four factions signed the Paris peace agreement, it was Thailand which arranged the Phatthaya meetings among the Cambodian factions and forged the necessary agreements on the peace plan. Thailand's role also included an attempt to persuade the Khmer Rouge to join phase two of the

UN-brokered peace plan. The document says it was Thailand which worked very hard with friendly nations such as Japan, China and Indonesia to persuade the Khmer Rouge to return to the peace process.

Bangkok was the first to provide concrete and substantial assistance to the reconstruction of Cambodia, clearing land mines, repairing highways and bridges, building schools, setting up health care centres and banking, among other projects, according to the document. The 46 kilometres of highway linking Poipet with Sisophon is due to be completed by the end of May. The total construction cost of Bt144.6 million was a direct contribution of the Thai government.

The guideline also discusses Thailand's trade ties with the Khmer Rouge. It said the elected Chuan government took a difficult political decision to abide by the trade sanctions imposed by the UN against the guerrilla faction although it had to face obvious and legitimate complaints on the loss of revenue by Thai traders. The Thai traders had to comply with the ban despite the fact that they had been granted genuine contracts from the four Cambodian factions. The traders appealed for help from the Foreign and Interior ministries, but to no avail.

The issue was dragged into the domestic political arena when Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut proposed to the Cabinet the re-opening of crossing points to facilitate the transport of equipment and processed wood from Cambodia. The proposal was strongly opposed by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, saying it would be contrary to the international community's consensus on the issue. Chuan made another difficult decision recently to reaffirm Thailand's strict adherence to the resolution by rejecting a formal request from Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] for special permission to transport timber across the border into Thailand.

Trying to dismiss allegations that some groups in the Thai military secretly supported the Khmer Rouge the guideline points out that the military extended full cooperation and facilities for Untac [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] troops to move in and out of Cambodia. Furthermore, Thailand contributed more than 700 military personnel to the Untac peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

Ministry Assailed Over KR Issue

BK2205122193 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 22 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Tardy Move by the Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry on Thursday issued a guideline to Thai Embassies abroad for use in explaining Thailand's position regarding the Khmer Rouge [KR]. This came too slowly in response to the charge made against Thailand that it supported the Khmer Rouge and encouraged them to challenge the peace process and boycott the election.

Thailand is the worst affected among Cambodia's neighbors since the war broke out in that country. It has thus taken a leading role in diplomatic maneuvres to solve the problem. But from the second half of last year, the Foreign Ministry has become slow and made mistakes resulting in Thailand's becoming a scapegoat of the rebellious attitude of the Khmer Rouge. Thailand also suffered tremendous losses in terms of the economy.

Thailand played a vital role in pushing for the "Paris conference" which paved the way for an agreement that an election be held in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge later boycotted the election. International efforts have been made to get the UN Security Council to approve economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge in order to force it to participate in the election.

The sanctions would not have been considered that early had the Thai Foreign Ministry made an effort. Under a resolution of the "Paris conference," any sanction which could affect Cambodia's neighbors—their independence and sovereignty—must get approval from those countries in question first.

Thailand, therefore, should have explained to those who sit on the Security Council but are not familiar with Southeast Asia what the situation was really like in this region.

But Thailand has lost that chance, and it could be because our foreign minister at that moment was still a novice.

After the Security Council voted to sanction the Khmer Rouge, Thailand continued giving cooperation to the United Nations and helped the Phnom Penh regime as it did in the past. Yet there has been strong criticism against Thailand accusing it of backing the the Khmer Rouge.

It is a pity that the image of Thailand has changed from that of supporting peace to that of supporting the Khmer Rouge to undermine peace. This, despite the fact that everything stated in the seven-point release from the Foreign Ministry is true.

It is a pity that it took the ministry so long to prepare the explanation for the world.

It shows that the present Foreign Ministry is slow in taking action and is inefficient.

Document on Cambodia Questioned

BK2405015593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 May 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Thailand and Khmer Rouge: Whose misconception?"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry last week prepared a threepage document outlining Thailand's policy on Cambodia. It listed all of its achievements relating to efforts to settle the quagmire and defended Thailand's relations with the Khmer Rouge. Apparently, the ministry is very anxious to defend Thailand's record on Cambodia, knowing that it will be under the world's scrutiny in post-election Cambodia. The document clearly is part of an offensive strategy aimed at countering possible criticism from the West. All diplomatic posts were asked to follow the argument put forth in the document.

As expected, Thailand dismissed as a "misconception" criticism by the international community that it still has a special relationship with the Khmer Rouge, saying that there is no evidence to support such a view.

The most important point the document wants to make is: Thailand has no relations with the Khmer Rouge. As far as the ministry is concerned, that is correct. Sad but true, there are things that the ministry does not know—especially about the situation on the ground along the Thai-Cambodian border. How many times in the past has the ministry been left in the dark about the real situation along Thailand's border with neighbouring countries in the name of security and the national interest? In this case, the ministry has to wash the dirty dishes by defending something about which it does not have full knowledge.

The document also refers to the Marxist group as the force that opposed the Vietnamese occupation. That is probably the justification for keeping ties with the Khmer Rouge now. With hysterical comments by military leaders about the number of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia, it is not at all hard to see why the Khmer Rouge is still alive and well and threatening to discredit the poll result.

Trying to find the "evidence" of Thai-Khmer Rouge links needs more than lip-service by Thai authorities. At the moment, it is like catching a shadow. Unfortunately, the true extent of Thailand's relations with the Khmer Rouge, as with many things in this country, will never be known since the ties are mainly under the jurisdiction of border security forces controlled by Supreme Command Headquarters.

Like it or not, Thailand will never convince the world that it has no contacts with the Khmer Rouge. From the beginning, only people at the very top have had full knowledge of Thai-Khmer Rouge relations. So whatever Thailand says about its ties with the Khmer Rouge will be treated with a grain of salt. After all Thailand has said the same thing time and again.

In past months it has been noticeable that Thailand, both the ministry and the military, has spoken in defence of the Khmer Rouge because it was clear that the guerrilla group would be excluded from the final settlement. Every time the military top brass made comments on the Cambodian conflict they displayed ignorance about the situation in Cambodia and a lack of appreciation of the international peace effort, of which Thailand is also a part.

As the new situation in Cambodia unfolds, sooner or later part of the legacy of Thai-Khmer Rouge relations will also be made clear. It will take a lot of courage by the authorities concerned to undo this relationship—which is truly one of the ugliest facets of Thai diplomacy in modern times.

Thailand will have to live with this stigma as long as it continues trying to hide the truth. Only by abandoning all dealings with the Khmer Rouge can we expect to build a genuine, lasting relationship with the new government now emerging in Cambodia.

Editorial Views Election Situation in Cambodia

BK2305032093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 May 93 p A10

[Editorial: "Getting Khmers to vote will be more than enough"]

[Text] About 4.6 million Cambodians are eligible to vote for 120 Constituent Assembly seats from today. A total of 20 political parties with different backgrounds and political ideologies have offered to lead Cambodia into the next decade.

Among the 20, there are only three big parties from among the four warring factions, namely the Pracheachon Party or the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of the State of Cambodia, the royalist Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

As Cambodians prepare to vote in the national elections today, the international human rights group Asia Watch has warned of the danger of more violence and a possible civil war in the country.

The human rights group says the United Nations has failed one of the preconditions of holding the elections—the promise to establish a neutral political environment, and it says the world body has not done enough to curb political and ethnic violence. Asia Watch also has condemned the United Nations for trying to keep the Khmer Rouge in the peace process despite the fact that the Maoist guerrillas have slaughtered Cambodians during their reign of terror between 1975-1978. The UN Director of Human Rights in Cambodia Denis McNamara admits continued political killings—almost half of which have been blamed on government officials—are still a major problem.

Despite these, UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is adamant that the elections in Cambodia should go ahead as scheduled. Butrus-Ghali however admitted the elections would not be taking place in the neutral political [as published] envisaged by the United Nations, but added "I am convinced that all has been done that could possibly have been done under the difficult circumstances, by UN peacekeepers to create the necessary conditions for elections."

On the other hand, Yasushi Akashi, the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), told UN staffers in Phnom Penh that the Khmer Rouge was now stronger than before and posed a great risk to Cambodia's UN-sponsored elections.

"Their military strength has increased by at least 50 per cent. They have new weapons and are operating in larger units. They are led by leaders who are more extreme than in the past years, so we have to be prepared," he said alarmingly.

It is clear that the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to enter into Phase II of the demilitarization process, to open their zones to Untac and to satisfy the demands of the Paris Peace Accords, are the root causes for their intransigence.

The Paris Peace Agreement signed in October 1991 integrated the Khmer Rouge and offered them full moral, legal and political rehabilitation. The idea of a quadripartite government for the period preceding the UN-sponsored elections was rejected in the Peace Accords and in its place was the creation of the Supreme National Council (SNC), as the "unique legitimate body and source of authority" for Cambodia. The SNC, in accordance with the accords delegates all powers to a structure of the United Nations created for the purpose, namely Untac.

About 19 months after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement and after months of successive deadlines granted to the Khmer Rouge to come back to the peace process, what have been the results?

Perhaps, the best indication of the prevailing climate of fear in Phnom Penh was best illustrated on Thursday when Cambodians anticipating violence during the elections started to scramble for visas to spend the time abroad. Thai Embassy officials said the number of people applying for visas had risen sharply in the last three weeks.

The much-vaunted Paris Peace Accords was to put an end to the fighting together with the regroupment and cantonment of the warring factions, their disarmament and the demobilization of at least 70 per cent of their military forces.

Ironically, a few days before the elections, the UN Security Council said it might be necessary to give back to the three main factions involved in the peace process the arms they handed over to UN forces as part of the ceasefire agreement to enable them to maintain security. That the peace accords have failed is a painful fact to admit, but nevertheless has to be acknowledged.

The impending question to be asked now is what direction Cambodia will be heading after the elections? Frankly, it is too late crying over spilled milk, and it has to be acknowledged that the government emerging after the elections will require considerable military and economic assistance. The lessons from the experience of Untac must be learnt and assistance to the new government must be thought through and carried out by skilled and determined United Nations' personnel. Also, a medium-term for Cambodia which takes into account that the Khmer Rouge have isolated themselves must be devised fast.

Amidst the current threats by the Khmer Rouge to disrupt the elections today, just getting the people to vote might be just enough for the time being.

Opposition Efforts To Topple Government Alleged

BK2205084793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Government House Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa gave an interview with reporters about certain political parties trying to bring power outside the system into politics in order to topple the government. He said he sympathizes with certain opposition groups carrying out such actions because they realize that if given time to perform, the government will be able to solve the country's basic long-term or medium-term problems. This situation will make it difficult for certain political parties to return to power. However, it is the wrong kind of thinking for certain political parties to try to bring into use hidden power or power outside the system because individuals inside the system who carry out such action deserve the strongest condemnation.

The government house spokesman also said that the government has received excellent cooperation from the Armed Forces as a government mechanism in carrying out its duties. The situation in the past six to seven months is clear evidence of this. The government House spokesman said there is no fear of a coup. He does not think there will be one because there are two main causes of the previous coups. First, politicians brought the military in as a foundation by giving it certain interests in return. However, once the interests conflicted, it amounted to the government's inviting the military to topple it. Second, the government was so corrupt that people were alienated, forcing people to accept a political change outside the system. The government spokesman gave assurances that the present government has never behaved in any way that fits the two aforementioned conditions. Although the May 1992 incident took place only one year ago, the fibers of national unity have been interlacing increasingly strongly.

Regarding the fear that the government might not be able to keep the situation under control in the face of numerous protests, the House spokesman said that the government holds as a policy the prime minister's statement made in parliament, which says: Rights to mass gatherings are respected if they are within the limits of the law. The government will not compromise or negotiate with violators of the law. The government has always emphasized that the authorities will have to take action and carry out the law against people who cause damage to property or violate the law.

Opposition Split on Censure Motion Viewed

BK2205031093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 May 93 p A6

[Commentary by Thepchai Yong: "Banhan vs Praman and Chatchai?"]

[Text] Banhan Sinlapa-acha has made political history yet again. Wednesday's hoopla at Parliament proved once again that this MP from Suphanburi is no ordinary politician. He managed to get his way not only with the Chat Thai Party, but also with the entire opposition bloc. We aren't quite sure whether Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has sent Banhan a personal thank-you note for what happened. But the fact that the opposition was split into two, right in the middle in the no-confidence move and the last-minute about-turn within Chat Thai Party has somehow prolonged the coalition government's life for at least several months. Chuan must thank his lucky stars—and Banhan—for that rare circus show.

Now, you know why Chat Phatthana leader Chatchai Chunhawan and Chat Thai boss Praman Adireksan were pushing hard last week for Chaloem Yubamrung, leader of Muan Chon Party, to draw up an "opposition pact" to make sure that there would be no defections in the campaign to launch a no-confidence debate against the government.

When Athit Urairat, Seri Tham's leader, came out to dismiss that proposal, few observers realized that the main opponent to the plan was in fact Banhan, Chat Thai's own secretary-general. No, Banhan wasn't plotting a defection. He simply wanted to tone it all down so that it wouldn't constitute a move to topple the Chuan government. He simply wanted a reshuffle. And Banhan was looking for a split that might result in a new government lineup which could see Chat Thai as a new partner. But while Chatchai wanted a full frontal attack against Chuan, Banhan's strategy was a totally different story altogether. A split appeared inevitable when the opposition parties met at noon on Tuesday: Banhan was nowhere to be seen. Praman went ahead with the commitment to launch a no-confidence debate against the whole government. The opposition parties put up a brave face and announced that the motion was to be submitted to the House Speaker on Thursday. But that was not to be the case. On the same evening, Banhan led an open rebellion during a closed-door session with Praman who was grilled for having committed Chat Thai to the major assault against Chuan. Praman was forced into an unenviable position. His party members insisted that the opposition bloc's decision be amended. A late-night urgent meeting of the opposition leaders was immediately called.

Late Tuesday night, the non-government leaders huddled for the second meeting of the day to listen to Banhan's argument against tackling the no-confidence motion. The private "Empress Court" room at the Princess Hotel was a scene of tension. For the first time, Chatchai realized that his alliance with Praman wasn't going to work without the full consent of Banhan. After more than two hours of deliberations, punctuated by occasional heated verbal exchanges, it was agreed that the no-confidence motion would be postponed until October when a full-fledged no-confidence debate against the government would be launched.

Though the change of heart was surprising, it obviously was no more than a face-saving measure. Yet the next day the situation took another twist. Banhan said on Wednesday after another party meeting that Chat Thai's key members had reviewed the move and had decided that it would submit the no-confidence motion against certain Cabinet members immediately instead of waiting until October to move against the whole Cabinet.

Banhan cited economic problems and crime as the main issues to be raised. When a reporter asked him whether the other opposition parties would go along with the new strategy, Banhan appeared frustrated. He said: "I am not going to say anything now because I don't want the press to say the Big Eel has changed its mind yet again. Khun Praman, myself and Khun Sano (Thianthong) will consult with other opposition leaders on this matter to find a clear-cut solution. I, however, can assure you that the 153 votes on the opposition side remain strongly united..."

It was clear to all concerned that the "Big Eel", as newspaper columnists have often referred to Chat Thai for its "slippery behaviour", was ready for a major change of heart yet again. More importantly, perhaps, was the clear indication even at that juncture that the Big Eel was also ready to go it alone with a no-confidence motion targeted against certain Cabinet members—against Chatchai's insistence to grill all Cabinet members.

As Banhan spoke to reporters about another meeting with other opposition leaders, a nine-member working group headed by Chumphon Sinlapa-acha, Banhan's younger brother, was already busy drafting the motion. Chat Thai MPs were told to sign the document even before other partners in the opposition front were consulted.

The opposition leaders did hold a meeting a few hours later at Parliament House. But a split was clearly in the air. Seri Tham leader Athit left the deliberations one hour after it started, saying that no conclusion had been reached. His spokesman, Phinit Charusombat, was more direct. He said the opposition had fallen apart "and some party may be trying to join the government". The first confimmation that Chat Thai was parting ways with the other opposition members came when Chat Phatthana MP from Chantaburi, Prawat Uttamot, said his party, together with Prachakon Thai, Muan Chon, Ratsadon and Seri Tham had decided to sign a no-confidence motion against the entire Cabinet, without Chat Thai's participation. The five parties managed to muster 73 signatures—just one more than the minimum 72 required to launch the move. Chat Thai had 77 signatures on its motion.

The contest was in full swing by late Wednesday afternoon. Chat Thai's working group was based at the Senate building while the five other opposition parties were racing against time at Parliament House nearby. Both sides were trying to beat each other in handing their respective motions to House Speaker Marut Bunnak who was understandably rather amused by all the hoopla on the opposition side. At 8.35 pm, Chatchai handed over the motion. Chat Thai leader Praman emerged at precisely 9.29 pm (lucky 9s were said to have determined the timing) to submit Chat Thai's very own motion to grill five Cabinet members—the interior, commerce, finance, foreign affairs and deputy communications ministers.

Banhan appeared much later to contend that the fact that Chat Thai had decided to go its own way should not be seen as a break-up in opposition ranks. "It's a new strategy—a two-pronged attack. We can start with a grilling session against the five Cabinet members and then proceed to attack the whole Cabinet " he said. Not many political observers, however, took this line of rationalization too seriously. The next move in this new confusing state of affairs in the opposition ranks will prove very exciting indeed. Banhan has won the battle. Chatchai and Praman have lost out in the first round.

As for Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, the smile on his face earlier in the day when he heard about the split between Banhan and the other opposition leaders quickly turned into a grimace when reporters asked him about reports that he had telephoned Banhan in the wake of the opposition's crisis negotiations to discuss "certain political accommodation" with the "tough manager" of the Chat Thai Party.

"Me? Negotiating with Khun Banhan?" the premier retorted.

Economist: Chuan Policies May Ruin Stability

BK2405021193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 May 93 p B2

[Text] A top economist has warned that certain Chuan Administration economic policies could ruin Thailand's longstanding macro-economic stability and usher in a debt crisis within five years.

Ammar Siamwalla, president of the Thailand Development Research Institute, suggested that the current plan of having a budget deficit to fund public investment will destabilize the country's macro economic situation.

"The leading factor that brought about Thailand's sustained economic growth is its macro-economic stability," he said, adding that deficit spending erodes fiscal discipline.

He was speaking at a recent monthly dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Bangkok, organized by the Distinguished Senior Executives Programme (DESP) Harvard Club of Thailand.

"We have to watch out for macroeconomic policy and how it is incorporated into the parliamentary, the decision-making and the budgetary processes," Ammar said.

He cited the example of the Second Expressway System, which is due to start operating soon. It was previously agreed by the government and the private concessionaire that the charge would be Bt30 per car, double the present Bt15.

But public uproar in Bangkok over the increase prompted the government to chop the proposed increase to just Bt5, making the new toll fee Bt20.

Succumbing to public pressure resulted in the "use of [the country's] money to satisfy" a relatively small number of people in the capital, Ammar pointed out.

The looming danger is that the lost government revenue from this and similar sorts of appeasement will eventually have to be paid for somehow.

One possible response from the government may be to resort to the printing press, which Ammar said— in a separate interview with The Nation was a distinct possibility. Such printing of money would invite inflationary problems and have repercussions for the Baht's value.

A more likely scenario would be a Thailand laden with a massive debt crisis, as the needed funds are borrowed from abroad.

Added to this is the potential problem of having technocrats in the administration.

The positive side of having technocrats such as Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, Deputy Prime Ministers Amnuai Wirawan, Supachai Phanitchaphak and Bunchu Rotchanasathian, is that each is accountable to the government's coalition parties.

But the drawback, Ammar claimed, is that technocrats such as these four [in the administration] are well aware of the inner-workings of the budget and may later decide to manipulate the numbers for their own self-interest.

Ammar suggested that the Second Expressway will not be the last concession the government makes to appease public pressure. It represents the start of a trend which could ruin Thailand's macro-economic discipline, he cautioned.

"The government is just postponing the problem in cases like [the Second Expressway]," he said.

Vietnam

Joint U.S. Search for MIA's Conducted 22-24 May

BK2405145193 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 24—The 23rd joint US-Vietnam search for American servicemen missing during the Vietnam War was conducted in many localities in central Vietnam from May 22-24.

The U.S and Vietnamese specialists made on-the-spot investigation and conducted excavations at many crash sites in provinces from Quang Binh to Binh Dinh.

At the same time, activies to gather information and interview Vietnamese Army officers concerned with the MIA issue were continued at Army museums in various localities. Investigations of 'live- sighting' reports were made in Quang Ninh and Thanh Hoa Provinces and Ho Chi Minh City and again proved that the reports were not true.

The personal belongings and body remains collected in this search shed light on the fate of many Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam. No evidence was found that any American left by the war was still alive in Vietnam. The remains collected by the excavation teams or handed over by local people will be jointly examined by forensic specialists of the two sides before handed over to the U.S.

The U.S. [words indistinct] and highly appreciated the close and effective cooperation offered by Vietnamese local authorities and people for the search.

Results of Businessmen's Trip to U.S. Announced

BK2205131393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a news conference in Hanoi on the afternoon of 21 May to announce the results of the visit to study the U.S. market by a delegation of Vietnamese businessmen led by Mr. Doan Ngoc Bong, vice president of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Doan Ngoc Bong disclosed that the visit was aimed at promoting understanding and trade relations and cooperation between Vietnamese and U.S. businessmen. Through direct contacts, U.S. businessmen were able to understand more about the potential of the Vietnamese market and the possibility of goods exchanges between the two countries.

According to these businessmen, the United States could supply Vietnam with machinery and equipment and buy from Vietnamese garments, textile fabrics, leather goods, handicraft and fine arts items, farm and marine products, and so forth.

Trip to U.S. Detailed

BK2205122293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] A group of Vietnamese business people have returned from a visit to the United States, saying that they could export fabrics, fine arts, handicraft, aquatic food, agricultural products, and fruits in large quantities to the United States.

The group spent 15 days in America. It was the first visit of its kind from Vietnam in 20 years.

The Vietnamese delegation saw a particular market for frozen shrimp in the United States as was other volumes of aquatic food [as received]. The American companies expressed their eagerness to invest in tourism, infrastructre construction, electricity, and electronic equipment in Vietnam.

Commentary Views Elections in Cambodia

BK2305090793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] A peaceful environment and a democratic atmosphere are the basic conditions necessary for general elections to take place in any country. Only under such circumstances can voters be free to select the right candidates and fulfill their duties as citizens. As far as Cambodia is concerned, such conditions are not fulfilled yet. The Khmer Rouge have constantly opposed and boycotted the general elections. They have repeatedly used violence and land- grabbing operations, cut off communications lines, terrorized civilians, and attacked UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel. The situation is so bad that in many localities, people have fled embattled areas and diplomats and their dependents have evacuated from the capital city of Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge do not participate in and make public their intention to resolutely boycott the general elections simply because they know that they are unable to win. Their untold crimes in the past have deepened the Cambodian people's hatred of them. The elections results will surely lead to the establishment of a constitutional National Assembly and a national reconciliation government, which will adopt a peaceful and neutral policy to rebuild the nation and establish friendly relations with neighboring countries. This policy responds to the Cambodian people's aspirations and conforms with the trends of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The Khmer Rouge never wanted such a national assembly and government to be established. Likewise, it is difficult for such a national assembly and government to coexist with the Khmer Rouge. The end result is that even if the Khmer Rouge continued to exist following the establishment of such a national assembly and government, they would be regarded as outlaws. Because they are very scared of such a scenario, they want to get rid of the UN-supervised general elections.

The Khmer Rouge nurture a great ambition, namely establishing their rule over Cambodia through the use of force combined with foreign assistance. The Cambodian people's great tragedy lies in the very fact that to date, the Khmer Rouge continue to exist instead of being hanged a long time ago. Worse still, because those murderers and engineers of so many killing fields have refused to carry out disarmament as stipulated under the Paris agreement, their military is now stronger than before in terms of its numerical strength, military equipment, and the number of hard-line leaders. These are the remarks of Mr. Akashi, head of UNTAC.

Both the Cambodian people and the world community show deep concern over such a situation. They are very worried about the general elections and the future of this nation. At present, the United Nations and first of all UNTAC are doing all they can to ensure that the general elections take place as scheduled in a peaceful atmosphere. The UNSC has also issued a resolution supporting the elections and warning that it will take appropriate action against any faction which disrupts the elections.

Faced with the worst situation, people often wish for the best. The public nurtures the same hope for the general elections in Cambodia. As for us who are Cambodia's close neighbors, we sincerely hope that the general elections will take place in a peaceful atmosphere and that large numbers of Cambodians will go to the polls. It is our hope that its results will lead to the establishment of a national assembly and national reconciliation government which truly reflect the Cambodian people's aspirations.

As always, Vietnam seriously respects the Paris agreement on Cambodia and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. We stand ready to cooperate with the new government to be established in Cambodia following the general elections in the interest of each country and for the sake of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Vo Van Kiet Leaves for Visit to New Zealand

BK2305135393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] At the invitation of [New Zealand] Prime Minister Jim Bolger, at noon today, 23 May, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife left Hanoi for an official visit to New Zealand.

Accompanying the prime minister was Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, Deputy Interior Minister Le Minh Huong, Deputy Trade Minister Nguyen Xuan Quang, High Rank Specialist Le Huy Ngo; Nguyen Dinh Thuan, deputy head of the government office; and the prime minister's assistant, Vu Quoc Tuan.

Also accompanying the prime minister were a number of businessmen representing various business, trade and service sectors, representatives of the Vietnamese news agency, the newspapers, and the television network.

This is the prime minister's first official visit to New Zealand since the two countries established diplomatic relations. The visit aims to enhance development in bilateral cooperation, especially in economic and trade areas, and to respond to the aspirations of the two peoples in the new stage.

Editorial Previews Visit

BK2405092193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet left Hanoi yesterday [23 May] for an official friendship visit to New Zealand and Australia. On this occasion, NHAN DAN carries an editorial entitled: "Goodwill To Enhance the Friendly and Cooperative Ties With the Two Neighboring Countries in the Southern Pacific Region."

The editorial points out: This first official visit to New Zealand and Australia by the head of our government marks a new, fine stage in the relations between Vietnam and those two countries. Public opinion in the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world follows with keen interest our prime minister's visit to New Zealand and Australia. This is a new, lively manifestation of Vietnam's open-door foreign policy of making friends with all countries, which is enjoying a warm response from countries in ASEAN and elsewhere in the region.

After reviewing the economic achievements of New Zealand and Australia, as well as the economic and trade ties between these two countries and Vietnam, the editorial points out: We welcome the goodwill of New Zealand and Australia to enhance their relations with Vietnam in many areas, especially in economic and trade cooperation, for each country's prosperity and for the sake of peace, cooperation, and development in the Asia-Pacific region. We are convinced that Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's official friendship visit will end in success and bring cooperative ties between Vietnam and the southern Pacific region to a new development stage.

PRC Defense Minister Chi Haotian Ends Visit

BK2205104493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The Chinese military delegation led by Defense Minister Lieutenant General Chi Haotian left Ho Chi Minh city on Friday [21 May], concluding his friendship visit to Vietnam.

The delegation visited Hue, Danang, Vung Tau, and the command staffs of the Fifth and Seventh Military Zones and the Antiaircraft Division 367.

Prime Minister To Visit France 'End of June'

BK2105073093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0335 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Hanoi, May 22 (AFP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has accepted an invitation from his French counterpart Edouard Balladur to visit France in the near future, diplomatic sources said here Saturday [22 May]. The invitation was handed to Kiet by France's ambassador to Vietnam Jean Francois Nougarede during a protocol visit. Kiet's visit is expected to take place towards the end of June.

"Relations between the two countries have improved substantially since President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Vietnam in February," said Kiet.

"The French Government has actively supported Vietnam in improving its ties with the IMF," or International Monetary Fund, he said.

Paris has announced that it will this year double its aid to Vietnam to more than 360 million francs (66 million dollars). France is now the third biggest foreign investor in Vietnam, behind Taiwan and Hong Kong, with a total of 322 million dollars in the country.

Vo Van Kiet Receives New French Ambassador

BK2205102993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 May, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received and had an amicable talk with the ambassador of the French Republic to our country, Jean-Francois Nougarede, who paid a courtesy visit to the prime minister.

The prime minister welcomed the appointment of His Excellency Jean-Francois Nougarede as ambassador to Vietnam and wished him success in his mission as a bridge of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

The prime minister stated that since the visit to Vietnam by the French president, relations between the two countries have developed satisfactorily, especially in the areas of cadre training, cooperation, and investment.

The prime minister also expressed the belief that with his experience as a diplomat, the ambassador will contribute significantly to strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit between the two countries for the prosperity of each country, as well as for peace, friendship, and development in the world.

Ambassador Jean-Francois Nougarede conveyed to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet kind regards and an invitation to visit France from the French prime minister, and he affirmed that the French Government always attaches importance to strengthening friendship and developing cooperation with Vietnam.

The ambassador also disclosed to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet a number of French investment projects in Vietnam to be submitted to the Vietnamese Government.

Australian Company Obtains Steel Production License

BK2405065993 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 24—The State Committee for Cooperation and Investment has granted an investment license to the Broken Hill Proprietary Co., Ltd. (BHP) for the manufacture of construction steel.

Based in Melbourne, Australia, BHP is a large international resources company with 3 principal operation divisions: steel, minerals and petroleum. BHP petroleum is well known in Vietnam in connection with exploitation of the Dai Hung oil reserves and oil and gas exploration activities.

BHP's new investment license now allows them to proceed with the new U.S.$2,250,000 enterprise which will be located at Bien Hoa Industrial Zone 2, Dong Nai Province. Total invested capital will be U.S. dollars 4,700,000.

The new company will be called BHP Steel Vietnam Enterprise, Ltd. and will operate under the transaction name of BHP Steel Vietnam.

BHP Steel Vietnam will produce a range of high quality steel construction products including roofing, walling and purlins. Their general manager elect and manager of Vietnam for BHP Steel, John Gourlay, will stay on in Vietnam to oversee construction and to train an all Vietnamese staff.

'If things go as smoothly as they have so far, we will be supplying Vietnamese made products by January, 1994,' says John Gourlay. 'As you can see from our record, BHP has tremendous faith in the future of Vietnam and we hope this investment by BHP Steel, will be the first of a number,' he added.

After receipt of the license, BHP paid particular tribute to their Vietnamese consultants Investconsult Ltd. 'who never let us down on a deadline' and Dong Nai officials, especially the cooperation of the Corporation for the Development of Bien Hoa Industrial Zone—Sonadezi.

Assembly Standing Committee Issues Communique

BK2005155993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 May 93

[Communique from the National Assembly Standing Committee; date not given]

[Text] The National Assembly Standing Committee met on 10-17 May under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

1. After reviewing preparations for the Ninth National Assembly's Third Session, the National Assembly Standing Committee decided to convene this session from mid-June to mid-July.

According to the agenda of this session, the National Assembly will pass the draft revised law on land and the draft laws on agricultural land tax, on publications, on oil and gas, on power and order in the promulgation of legal documents; the draft bills on amendments to the income tax law, the law on special consumption, the law on profits, and the law on export/import. The National Assembly will also decide on procedural matters in the work of National Assembly deputies and delegations, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Nationalities Council, and other the National Assembly Committees. It will contribute ideas to the draft laws on state business and on bankruptcy of business establishments. The National Assembly will also examine the implementation of National Assembly resolutions and its work during the first half of 1993 and other important issues.

The National Assembly Standing Committee heard a combined report on ideas contributed by the people to the draft revised law on land and the draft law on agricultural land tax as well as other draft laws. The National Assembly Standing Committee also examined the draft law on power and order in the promulgation of legal documents, the law on state business, the law on the bankruptcy of business establishments, and the procedural matters of the Nationalities Council and of other National Assembly Committees. It also heard a government report on the implementation of National Assembly resolutions and its work for the first half of 1993.

The National Assembly Standing Committee highly welcomed the work of people, cadres, and combatants nationwide in contributing many valuable ideas to the drafts laws on land and on the agricultural land tax. It also commended various echelons and sectors for their efforts in overcoming difficulties in urgently preparing for the upcoming Ninth National Assembly's Third Session. The National Assembly Standing Committee charged various responsible agencies with the task of perfecting these draft laws, the drafts of procedural matters, and the draft reports to be submitted to the National Assembly.

2. The National Assembly Standing Committee adopted the regulation on judges and the people's juries, and the regulation on procurators after hearing reports by representatives of the drafting committees on the revision of these draft regulations on the basis of the ideas of the National Assembly Standing Committee at its April 1993 meeting. These two regulations help concretize various stipulations in the Law on the People's Court, the Law on the People's Organ of Control concerning the issues of judges, the people's juries, and procurators of the People's Organ of Control, which are aimed at strengthening the role, position, and quality of judges and the people's juries as well as the procurators, thereby contributing to enhancing the effectiveness of the court's and the Organ of Control's activities.

3. The National Assembly Standing Committee reviewed results of the Fifth National Conference of the People's Councils organized on 26-28 April 1993 in Danang city. The National Assembly Standing Committee highly appraised these results. It contended that given the present situation and past experience and lessons, it is necessary to continue renovating and enhancing the effectiveness of various echelons of the People's Councils, while studying and applying concrete theories to build the Law on the People's Council and People's Committees, and the Law on the Election of the People's Councillors for submission to the National Assembly at the year-end session.

4. The National Assembly Standing Committee heard a report on the visit to the Trung Sa [Spratly] Islands by a National Assembly delegation led by National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy on 20-28 April 1993.

The National Assembly Standing Committee highly commended the Army and people on the islands for their efforts in overcoming difficulties and hardships to develop the island's economy and to contribute to defending national sovereignty.

Regular Cabinet Meeting Held 20-21 May

BK2205094593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] A regular cabinet meeting was held on 20 and 21 May 1993 under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai.

The cabinet heard:

—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam presented a draft law on diplomatic and consular prerogatives and immunities of diplomatic missions and international organizations in Vietnam.

—Science and Environment Minister Dang Huu, presented a draft law on the policy on information technology development in our country in the nineties and a draft resolution of the government on this issue.

—Finance Minister Ho Te reported on the budgetary revenue situation and expenditures in the first five months of 1993.

Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai delivered a closing speech, pointing out a number of urgent tasks to be carried out by various echelons and sectors in the months to come. They were particularly asked to overcome those difficulties and shortcomings displayed in carrying out budget planning over the past five months and to find appropriate measures to maintain and develop production, stabilize the people's lives, and closely manage prices, trying to maintain the annual criteria for price increases and inflation as already established by the National Assembly.

Also at the meeting, the cabinet heard Minister Hoang Duc Nghi, head of the Nationalities and Mountain Regions Committee, relay the views of the prime minister on the need to review the implementation of Directive 72 on socioeconomic development for mountain provinces and to assign various sectors and localities with the duty of formulating meticulous plans on this issue in order to submit them to the cabinet for consideration at its next meeting.

Vu Oanh Addresses Commerce, Tourist Congress

BK2405080093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The Vietnam Commerce and Tourist Union held its eighth congress from 22 to 23 May. Attending the congress were some 300 delegates representing tens of thousands of employees of the commerce and tourist sectors countrywide. Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, attended and expressed his views to the congress.

With the union's past achievements as the basis, the congress set out new tasks for the days ahead as follows: It is necessary to carry on the movement to improve the union's activities to make them consistent with the laboring people's interests. Joint efforts must be made to intensify the various emulation movements for outstanding work performance, more effective business results, and better entrepreneurship.

Ho Chi Minh City Trade Union Holds Congress

BK2305100993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 May 93

[Summary] From 17 to 19 May, 350 deputies representing over 500,000 trade union members attended the Sixth Congress of Ho Chi Minh City Trade Union Federation. Also attending the congress were Nguyen Thi Binh, vice state president; Nguyen Van Tu, president of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers; Vo Tran Chi, secretary of the municipal party committee; representatives from mass organizations, departments, and sectors in the city; and representatives from trade union organizations of former B-2 provinces.

In the last term of office from 1987 to 1992, the trade union has taken on a new role in the open-door era with a multisectoral economic structure. This role requires the trade union to participate actively in managing, supervising, and protecting rights and entitlements of workers in both state-run and nonstate sectors. Some shortcomings still exist, however, such as low worker participation in trade union activities, especially among intellectuals and office professionals. For the coming term of office from 1993 to 1998, the objectives of the trade union will be the diversification of its organization and the popularization of its activities.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh, who was also at the congress, awarded the Independence Order of the First Class, which was decided by President Ho Chi Minh in his decree of 25 April 1949, to the Nam Bo Trade Union Federation. He also conferred the Independence Order of the Third Class, decided by President Ho Chi Minh in his decree dated 2 September 1950, to the Saigon-Cho Lon Trade Union Federation.

Australia

Canberra, Wellington To 'Push' Asia-Pacific Trade

BK2405074293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, has returned from a three-day visit to New Zealand dominated by talks on trade issues. Linda Mortrum reports that the two countries are now set for a further push to liberalize trade among Asia-Pacific nations.

[Begin Mortrum recording] The trade theme has emerged as the center piece of Mr. Keating's visit. His precious ideas for a systematic push towards an Asia-Pacific economic community and possibly an eventual free trade arrangement in the region. Mr. Keating's New Zealand counterpart, Jim Bolger, says the underlying message of the three-day visit is that on the big issues, namely, freeing up trade in the region through the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation process, Australia and New Zealand are now working together. With recent hiccups in the relationship now firmly in the past, Mr. Keating will embark on a North Asian trip next month when he can advance Australia's and New Zealand's trade arguments. [end recording]

New Zealand

Australian Prime Minister Winds Up Visit 23 May

Discusses 'Intertwined' Relations

BK2305075293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, says the destinies of Australia and New Zealand are now more intertwined than ever. Linda Mortrum reports that Mr. Keating made the remark as he wound up a three-day visit to New Zealand:

[Begin recording] [Mortrum] New Zealand leader Jim Bolger enthused about the Keating visit, had a final news conference of the two leaders.

[Bolger] The relationship is (?increased by half).

[Mortrum] Mr. Keating says the visit has affirmed Australia and New Zealand have far more to unite them than divides them.

[Keating] The destiny of these two countries is more than ever a destiny together and I think that is the clear message of our talks.

[Mortrum] While both leaders reject the option of New Zealand formally becoming part of Australia, Mr. Keating says it's effectively being done through bilateral trade ties and the removal of other barriers to commerce. [end recording]

Bolger Opposes Annexation

BK2305075893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Queenstown, New Zealand, May 23 (AFP)—New Zealand will not seek to become the next Australian state—no matter how well they get on with Australians, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Sunday.

"No matter how much we get on with the Australians, I don't see that as an advance at all," he told a press conference here after a final meeting with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating who was on the last day of a three-day visit to New Zealand.

"In fact it would be interesting to know what advantages there should be or would be," Bolger said.

The Australian constitution makes provision for New Zealand to become an Australian state, but the governments on both sides of the Tasman have always stressed that political union is not on the agenda despite rapid progress towards economic integration.

Keating Sunday denied he had any desire to expand his empire.

"I think what we're saying is we're not doing that, but we are doing much of it in fact by getting our two economies operating on the same footage, efficiency, engaging with Asia. That's a pretty big change," Keating said at the press conference.

Bolger reiterated his statement of two weeks ago that New Zealand would debate the merits of republicanism as a spin-off of the current heated debate on the subject in Australia.

"It looks like in short order Australia's going to do it differently for Australia. That's of course a choice of the Australian people," he said.

Keating is keen to see Australia become a republic by 2001, but so far there have been few signs of similar sentiments in New Zealand.

Defense Only 'Major' Difference

LD2305100093 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0800 23 May 93

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, has left New Zealand after a three-day visit which has seen him develop a positive relationship with New Zealand leader Jim Bolger.

[Correspondent Janice Rodenburg] The two leaders had only met once before as prime ministers at last year's South Pacific Forum meeting on the independent ground of the Solomon Islands. While sources on both sides of the Tasman say the two men each had some prejudices, by the end of the weekend Mr Bolger and Mr Keating were obviously getting on well.

Mr Keating held top-level talks in Wellington and visited a marae [Maori ceremonial meeting house] in Auckland, which he described as a highlight of his trip, before doing some sightseeing in Queenstown today. A potential row over benefit payments for Kiwis in Australia was quickly defused, leaving the major area of difference being in defense, and even there Jim Bolger provided reassurances of New Zealand's commitment.